19 quit as members of Edsa commission

Story on Page A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2001 ★ 58 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 42 ₱15

Stocks, peso continue to fall

THE STOCK market and the peso yesterday continued their decline even as Philippine financial markets took a step back from Wednesday's panic selling to consolidate.

"Usually after a major correction, selling eases but the selling was still sustained (on Thursday) . . . as political uncertainty was still gripping the nation," Efren Cruz, president of Mu-

STOCKS/ A18

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Top Neda exec quits** BUSINESS / B1
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- **No polls in May–Tañada** ACROSS / A16
- **4 groups eye Equitable** BUSINESS / B1

AFP intervention feared

'1M on Edsa will not draw out military'

SIGNS of a split in the military and a possible coup against President Estrada are beginning to emerge, former President Fidel Ramos said yesterday.

Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was more specific, saying that two cabals were ready to spring separate coup attempts.

One would be "a coup from the center" where a junta would reduce Mr. Estrada to a figurehead and the other plot is by "enemies of the President" who just want to seize power for themselves, she said without elaborating.

Macapagal also warned Mr. Estrada that if violence broke out over the political turmoil, "the bloodshed would be on his very doorstep."

Macapagal's chief of staff Renato Corona said the junta would have no civilian features at all but would call itself a junta to put up a "soft face."

"In reality, this would be a purely military junta," Corona said. "They will attempt to fool the people."

He did not want to give more details of the plot, other than that the plotters do not want Macapagal, who is next in the line of succession, to take over the presidency.

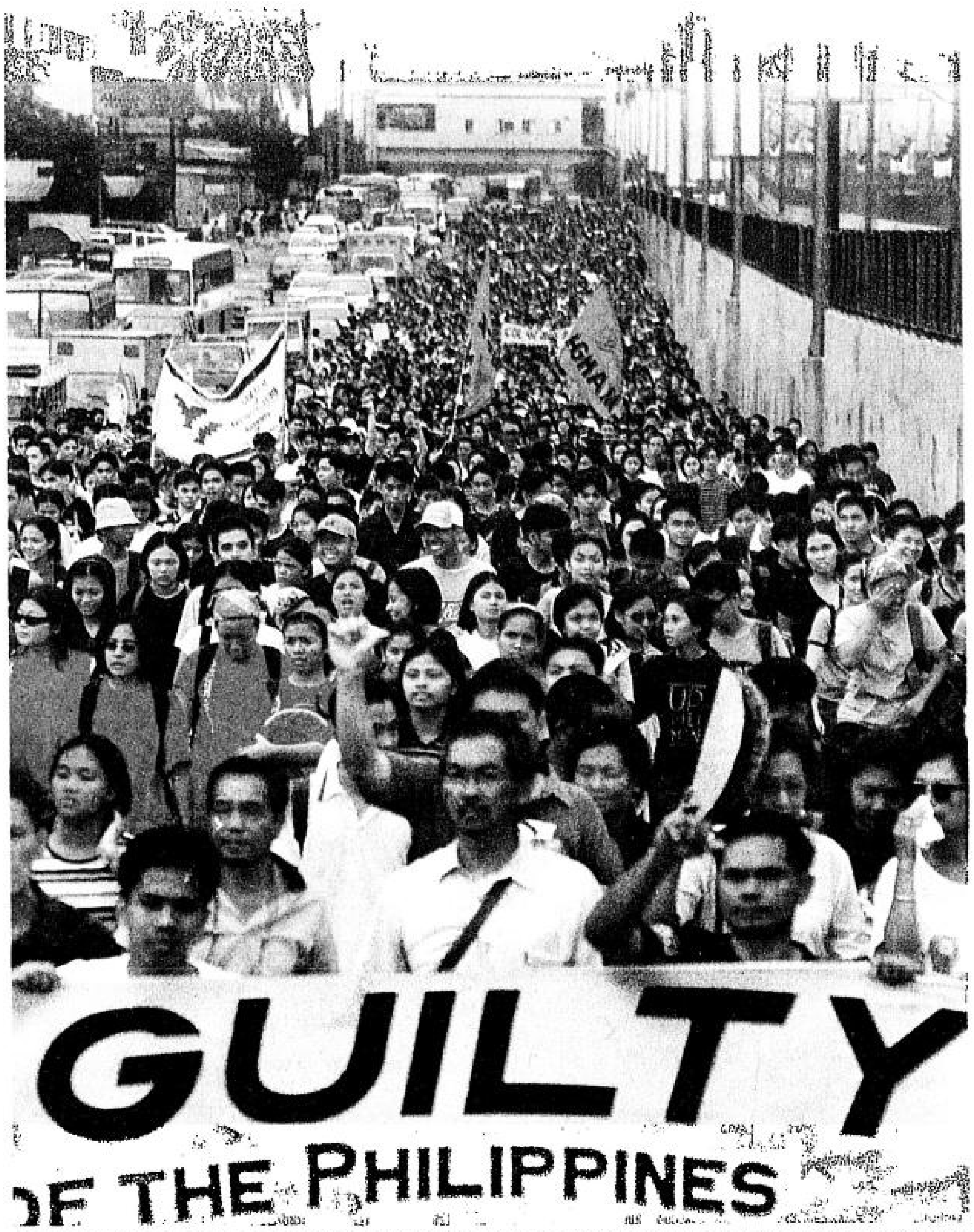
Militant groups warned that Mr. Estrada might use the political crisis to justify a military takeover to keep his post on a nominal basis.

The military takeover is part of the "God Save the King" plan to stave off attempts by the outraged public to unseat Mr. Estrada, according to party list group Bayan Muna.

But Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado stressed Thursday that the security situation was "fairly quiet."

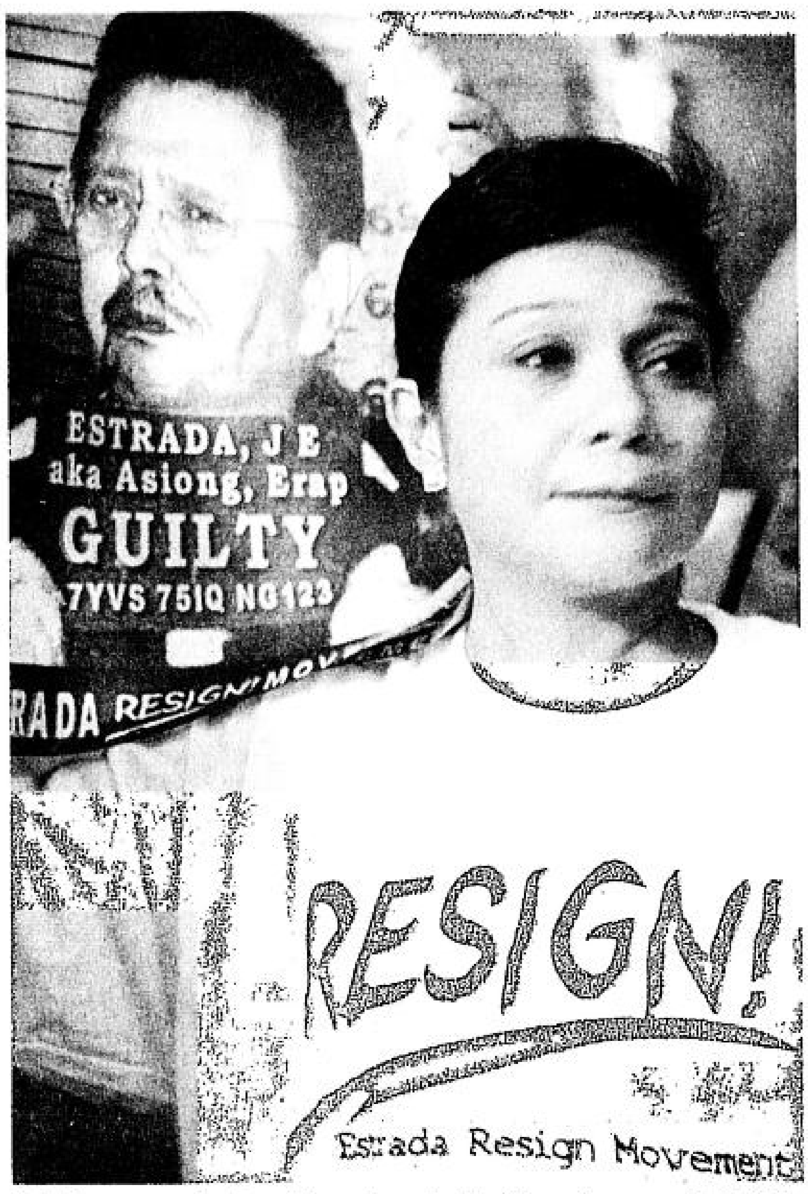
He stressed that "there is no group, no charismatic person able to induce the military" to move against Mr. Estrada, unlike in the late 1980s, when then President Corazon Aquino put down seven bloody coup attempts by rightwing

AFP/ A18



AS FAR as the eye can see, students who walked out of their classes march to the Edsa Shrine on Thursday swelling the assembly there to about 250,000 people.

EDWIN BACASMAS



ADD the name of actress Nora Aunor to the litany of women behind the unmaking of President Estrada.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Nora dumps Erap: 'He beats people'

By Andrea T. Echavez

ERAP is not Guy's guy anymore.

Saying that she recognized the signature of "Jose Velarde" as President Estrada's handwriting, "superstar" Nora Aunor yesterday did the previously unthinkable and joined other show biz friends of the former action star in calling for his resignation.

And in an allegation that shocked Filipinos all over the country, Aunor, a longtime off-and-on girlfriend of Mr. Estrada since he was still an actor, accused him of battering women and of beating her "black and blue" at least once when they were romantically involved.

"He is not only a womanizer, a gambler or a drunkard, he beats people. Women, men, he doesn't choose," said the actress who starred across Mr. Estrada in "Erap is My Guy" in the '70s.

"When I was still with him, even if I was already black and blue *(pasa-pasa na)*, I put up with it patiently," "Ate Guy" claimed, add-

NORA/ A19

President 'very surprised, disappointed'

By Donna S. Cueto

"VERY surprised and disappointed" was how acting Press Secretary Mike Toledo described President Estrada's reaction yesterday to movie star Nora Aunor's astounding choice to join opposition forces in demanding the resignation of her longtime friend.

"There was no doubt about that (his disappointment)," Toledo said in a press briefing yesterday.

Pro-Estrada demonstrators encamped at Mendiola near Malacañang were dismayed and disgusted by Aunor's turnaround. *"Balimbing siya*

PRESIDENT/ A19

1M to march on Palace

By Christine Herrera

ONE MILLION protesters will march on Malacañang from the Edsa Shrine within the next three to four days to demand President Estrada's immediate resignation.

Multisectoral groups led by the Estrada Resign Movement (Resign) and the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil) II made the announcement yesterday, as "People Power II" rallies continued unabated on Edsa and other parts of the country.

The organizers also said a nationwide civil disobedience campaign would kick off today.

They said walkouts, work stoppages and class boycotts would be launched simultaneously by workers, peasants and students.

In the planning stage is a boycott of banks and companies owned by the President's cronies, they said.

In Makati City, more than 10,000 workers and executives left their offices yesterday to form a human chain from the financial district to the Edsa Shrine.

The workers started to form the chain at 4 p.m., beginning from the Ninoy Aquino statue at the historic corner of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas. The line snaked its way

1M/ A18

Malacañang, Congress try to stem grave crisis

By Martin P. Marfil, Juliet L. Javellana and Donna S. Cueto

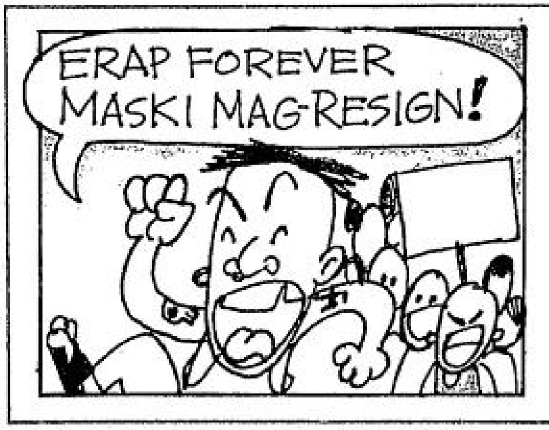
MALACAÑANG and Congress are moving to avert a looming constitutional crisis as the two branches of government push for the resumption of the impeachment trial with the reconstitution of the House prosecution panel.

"In a real sense, there is a constitutional difficulty that the country is meeting because we have lost the one means of determining whether the President is guilty or not," Sen. Raul Roco said.

"We cannot move forward. So yes, there seems to be an incipient constitutional crisis," he said.

The resignation of the 11-mem-

MALACAÑANG/ A5



Metro street gangs join pro-Erap rallies

By Jerome Aning

BLACK Devils. Crime Buster. Blue Medallion. True Brown Style. Akrho.

Heavy metal bands? Well, no.

These are some of the names of the youth fraternities and street gangs that have joined President Estrada's

METRO/ A18

HEARTLAND

'We must show it's not only on Edsa'

By the PDI Bureaus

"WE must show to the President that the movement for his ouster is not merely limited to Edsa in Metro Manila. We must hold these protest actions as often as possible, if not daily, to sustain the momentum of the protest movement."

Archbishop Fernando Capalla made these remarks yesterday as the nation shook anew with protest rallies and noise barrages mounted by people indignant at the turn of events in the Senate impeachment trial and demanding the resignation of President Estrada.

Pangasinenses, led by members of the Diocese of Dagupan-Lingayen and Enough of Erap Movement (Erap Agco La!), lashed out at the 11 senators who voted not to open a second envelope that may contain evidence of President Estrada's alleged thievery.

Chants of *"Na-onse kami* (We were duped), Erap resign" filled the streets of Dagupan City as drivers honked their horns.

Dagupan-Lingayen Archbishop Oscar Cruz, immediate past presi-

WE/ A6

Democratic institutions seriously wounded

By Raul J. Palabrica

(Last of two parts)

ANALYSIS

THE COUNTRY may be on the edge of the most serious constitutional crisis in its political history.

The Senate is beset by a serious leadership problem that puts in doubt its competence to decide on the moral authority of the President to remain in office.

The House of Representatives is still undecided on how to resolve the issue of who will continue the work started by the original prosecution team. Efforts to persuade the group of Rep. Joker Arroyo to reconsider its decision to withdraw seem to have failed.

To compound these problems, some sectors of society have called on Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to refrain from continuing to participate in a proceeding whose objectivity is now suspect.

Until that fateful vote was taken last Jan. 16, the Senate, acting as an impeachment court, stood high in the public's esteem.

The majority of the people gave the Senate the benefit of the doubt in truthfully determining whether or not President Estrada is guilty of the charges stated in the Articles of Impeachment.

The Constitution gave the Senate the "sole power to try and decide all cases of impeachment" in recognition of its national constituency and presumed maturity of its members.

DEMOCRATIC/ A18

Second FRONT PAGE

SUMASAMA NA LAHAT!

Inquirer.net posts 5M hits

INQUIRER Interactive, the website of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, posted over 5 million hits on Jan. 16 as People Power II erupted following a controversial vote which blocked key evidence in the impeachment trial of President Estrada.

The website (www.inquirer.net) received 5,112,480 successful hits on a special coverage on the 23rd day of the impeachment trial which saw the controversial 11-10 vote and resignation of Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. immediately trigger spontaneous protest all over the country.

To accommodate the huge outpour, a mirror site of Inquirer Interactive could be reached a http://66.40.8.224//

A People Power II special section was created at Inquirer Interactive, containing multimedia coverage of the protest movements, including audio and video streamcasts and text-only up-to-date running accounts of the events, courtesy of Inquirer Interactive's partnership with GMA Network Inc.

Inquirer and GMA Network are forming a joint venture company, INQ7 Interactive, to provide real-time multimedia-based news on the Internet.

19 quit as members of Edsa commission

BY AGNES E. DONATO

THEY WOULD not taint themselves by continuing to serve as appointees of the President in a commission that the latter himself had created to keep alive the ideals of an earlier popular uprising.

Yesterday, 19 of the 25 commissioners of the Edsa People Power Commission, among them persons prominent in recent moves to oust the President, resigned amid burgeoning street protests reminiscent of the 1986 Edsa revolution they had been tasked to memorialize.

"It (would be) untenable to join our fellow Filipinos calling for the resignation of the President while serving as his appointees," said a statement signed by the commissioners.

Among the more prominent personalities who tendered their resignations were Rep. Wigberto Tañada, Msgr. Socrates Villegas, Pastor Saycon, Teodoro Benigno, Oscar Villadolid, Victoria Garchitorena, Jose Lina Jr., Lourdes Siytangco and Ramon del Rosario.

They were joined by Jose Alejandro, Teresita Baltazar, Antonio de los Reyes, Patricia Sison, Lito Lorenzana, Maria Montelibano, Christopher Carrion, Margarita Juico, Angelina Catajoy and Luz Emmanuel Soriano.

Tañada was a member of the House prosecution panel that was trying the impeachment case against Mr. Estrada until Tuesday when a majority of the senator-judges prevented the opening of an envelope believed to contain the most serious evidence yet against the President.

The prosecution team composed of 11 congressmen and various private prosecutors then resigned from the trial.

Villegas, Saycon, Benigno, Villadolid, Garchitorena, Lina and Del Rosario have been active in calling for the resignation of the President. Sytangco is the press spokesperson of former President Corazon Aquino.

"This does not mean that we would no longer follow the ideals of the Edsa Revolution of 1986. In fact, we are doing this to reiterate our commitment to live by peaceful and non-violent means of seeking reform," Garchitorena said.

Commissioners Jose Concepcion, Lourdes Pimentel and Bishop Teodoro Bacani reportedly have expressed support for their colleagues' decision, but had yet to sign the statement.

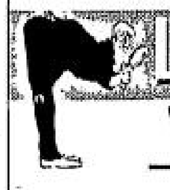
The remaining three members, Finance Secretary Jose Pardo, Rep. Agapito Aquino and Antonio Lopa, have said they would not resign, according to Catajoy.

The group said they decided to quit after the opening of the second envelope at the President's impeachment trial was stymied by the no votes of a majority of the senator-judges.

The trial of the President was then suspended, thus holding in abeyance any resolution to the four serious charges he is facing for alleged violations of his oath and the Constitution.

The Edsa People Power Commission was created under Executive Order No. 82 which President Estrada signed in February 1999.

It is tasked with keeping alive the spirit of the 1986 Edsa revolution through commemorations and other activities, as well as the maintenance of the physical reminders of the time such as the People Power and other monuments.



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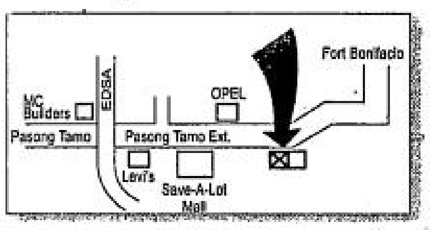

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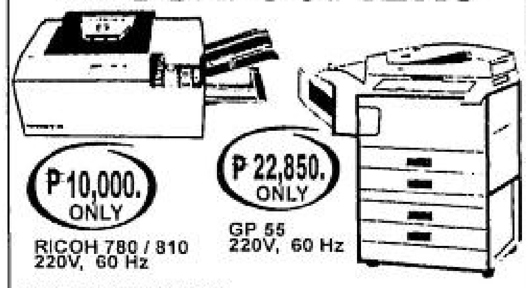

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DANCING QUEEN

Tessie Oreta's a problem, says brother

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL
AND NELSON F. FLORES

MAKATI Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino revealed yesterday that he had talked to his brother-in-law about the behavior of his sister, Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, after senator-judges at the impeachment trial of the President prevented the opening of a sealed envelope believed to contain graver evidence against Mr. Estrada.

Aquino said he told Antolin "Len" Oreta, his brother-in-law, that the senator was apparently overtaken by her emotions, when she did a little jig after senator-judges allied with the President defeated opposing solons, 11-10, to keep the envelope sealed.

Aquino-Oreta's dance was seen on nationwide TV and instantly drew sharp reactions from many quarters.

"(I told him that) she made a mistake… it was too exuberant and it unduly hurt the feelings of others… (she should) control her emotions," the congressman said.

The two, along with Paul Aquino, were siblings of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino whose assassination in 1983 sparked the People Power revolt in 1986.

While Tessie and Butz support the President, Paul and Ninoy's widow and son, former President Corazon Aquino and Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino, are at the forefront of moves to oust Mr. Estrada.

"She is a problem," was how Paul described his younger sister during an anti-Estrada demonstration in Makati City yesterday. He made the remark in response to questions about Aquino-Oreta's obvious bias for the President during the impeachment trial.

Paul said he did not know why his sister has allied herself with the President. He said she was apparently beholden to him for unknown reasons.

Paul, however, described his elder brother, Butz, in kinder terms when he said the congressman is in a soul-searching mood. He confidently added that Butz would switch sides soon.

"*Nag-iisip siya. Alam ko sasama siya sa amin pero si Tessie… problema 'yon* (He is thinking. I know he will join us, but Tessie… she is a problem)," Aquino said.

The Aquinos have two other sisters, Maur Lichauco and Lupita Kashiwahara. Maur is also active in the anti-Estrada movement while Lupita, who played a role in the opposition to Ferdinand Marcos, has been living abroad.

Tatad: I'll do impartial justice even to the devil

BY J. L JAVELLANA

"I HAVE sworn to do impartial justice and I shall do impartial justice to everyone including the devil himself."

Senate Majority Leader Francisco Tatad made this reply in response to the criticisms he got from his close friends and fellow Bicolanos for his role in the Senate voting that led to the suspension of the trial of the President.

It was Tatad who moved that senator-judges immediately vote on the matter of opening documents pertaining to a P3.3 billion account of Jose Velarde. This preempted the right of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to make a ruling.

"I'm sorry that they are disappointed but I want them to know that if they are in agony because of my decision, I am in greater agony because these are friends whose respect and opinion I value and I don't want to lose their friendship. But I want them to know that I take my position on the issues before the court as a judge on the basis of law, not politics," Tatad said.

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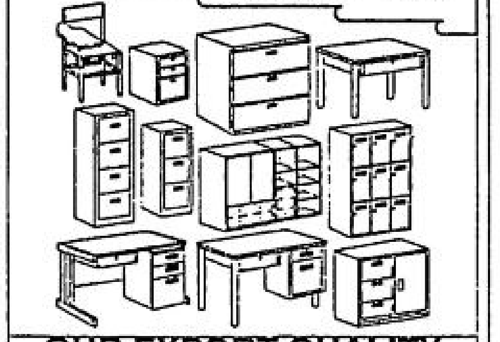

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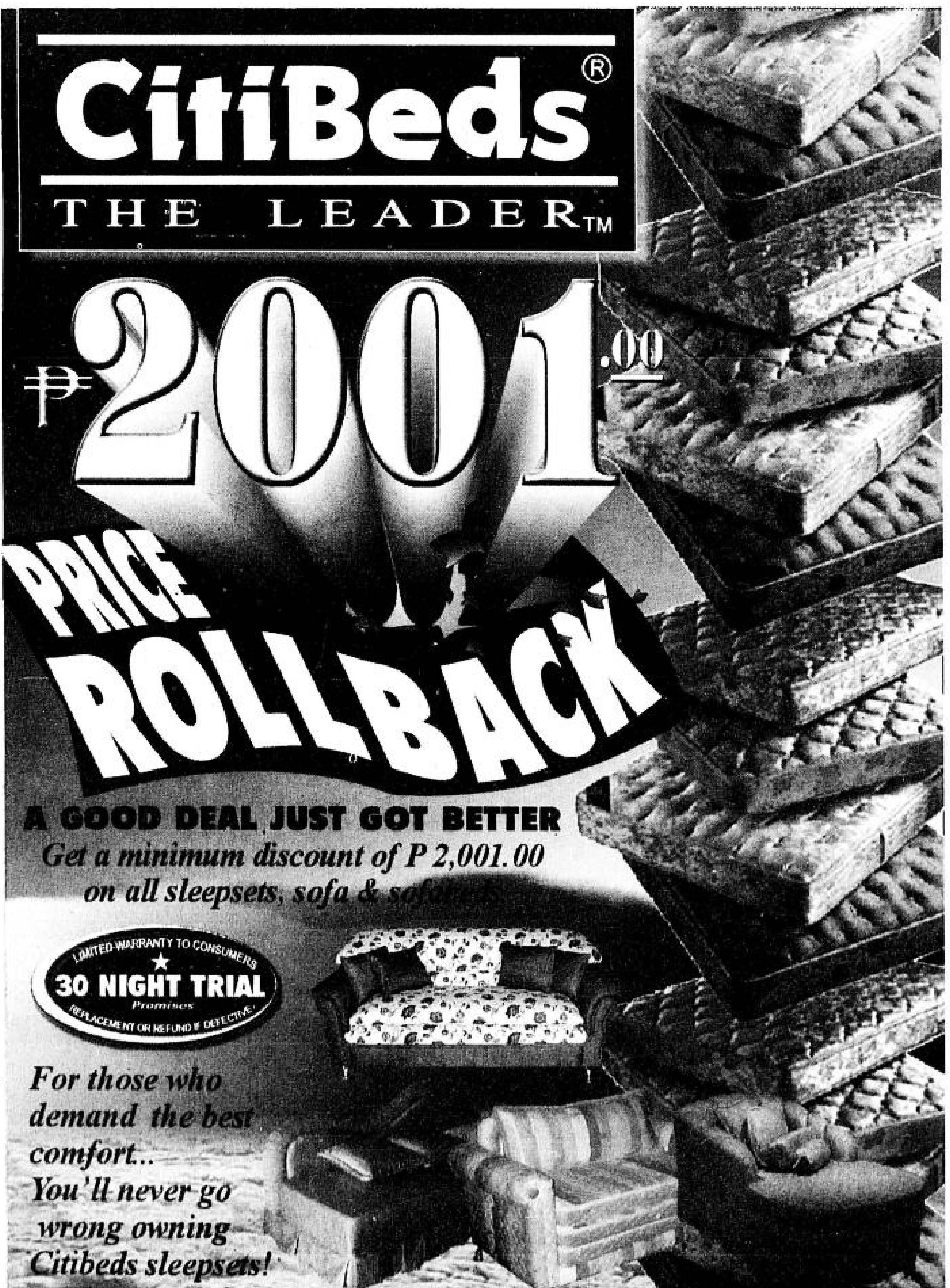
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Espiritu faces estafa raps over Wincorp

By Rocky Nazareno

A FILIPINO-CHINESE investor in a bankrupt investment house has sued former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu and his son, John Anthony, for estafa in conspiracy with other officials of Westmont Investment Corp. (Wincorp), United Overseas Bank of the Philippines, Hottick Holdings Corp. and Powermerge Corp.

In a complaint filed with the Department of Justice, Halbert Uy accused the Espiritus and 13 others of violating Article 315 of the Revised Penal Code after they allegedly conspired in defrauding the complainant of the P29 million he had entrusted to Wincorp.

Uy is being represented in the estafa case by the Romulo, Mabanta Law Office, ironically the same firm from whose stable of lawyers volunteered for the prosecution panel in the impeachment case against President Estrada.

Uy is among the 2,200 Wincorp. Investors who are trying to recover their deposits and placements totaling more than P7 billion that was largely borrowed by companies allegedly owned by Espiritu and his business allies, most of whom were also Wincorp. Owners.

The complainant said he was a Westmont Bank depositor until the bank's branch manager, Lester Yu, enticed him to place his money in Wincorp for re-lending.

Wincorp then lent his P29-million investment as part of the P1.36-billion loan it extended to Hottick Holdings Corp. in 1997.

He said Yu "represented that the money placed with Wincorp, regardless of the payment or non-payment of the third party borrower will be returned to the depositor upon maturity."

But when Hottick could not pay the loan, newly formed Powermerge Corp. assumed the rights of Hottick "without the corresponding obligation to pay for the outstanding obligation of Hottick."

Both companies listed Jose Luis Virata as their president.

According to Uy, Virata and a Malaysian investor Tan Sri Halim Saad gave him their personal guarantee for the Hottick loan.

"Wincorp, Hottick and Powermerge, again in conspiracy with one another, systematically and deliberately released or made unviable the security for their obligation to the complaint," Uy said in the complaint.

According to Uy, Wincorp even released Halim and Virata from their surety obligations without Uy's consent and knowledge.

Virata's released was conditioned on a commitment to deliver 70 percent of the equity in the Manila-Cavite Tollway Project which Virata had yet to acquire at that time.

Thereafter, Wincorp even reduced the 70 percent equity to 40 percent.

"Up to now, Virata has yet to deliver the promised equity," Uy said.

Worse, Wincorp even increased its loan to Powermerge to P2.5-billion by using funds drawn from other investors.

Uy said he entrusted his money to Wincorp "to be lent to credit-worthy borrowers and with the expectation that his money will be returned to him at the stipulated date."

"Neither has Wincorp taken any step to collect from Hottick or Powermerge or to proceed against any of the securities still available," Uy said.

'We're like a house on fire'

By A. N. Nocum

NATIONAL Treasurer Leonor Briones yesterday likened the Estrada administration to a "house on fire" and a "damaged institution," but said she is not resigning as this will only add to the country's economic woes.

Amid pressures to resign, Briones said she would have to stay on to ensure that the economic crisis will not deprive government workers of their salaries.

According to Briones, her problem can be likened to a situation where she is given a house to take care of.

"Suppose there is a fire in the neighborhood, I just cannot leave because my house would be eaten up by fire," she said in a radio interview.

She said she was just trying to comply with her responsibilities to ensure that the present economic crisis will not affect the government's coffers.

"It is the national treasury that ensures that people's salary are released, that is the government's responsibility to its workers," she said.

Briones said they have to make sure that in the face of the crisis, the hospitals, schools, military units, other government offices and government projects continue operations.

She said what compounds the government's woes is the fact that the government deficit has reached P136 billion, raising fears that government workers will not be receiving their salaries real.

Tuquero is next Comelec chair

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

JUSTICE Secretary Artemio Tuquero will be the next chair of the Commission on Elections.

This was revealed last night by a high-ranking official of the Comelec, who said outgoing chair Harriet Demetriou, former chief presidential legal counsel, was offered Tuquero's post after she steps down on Feb. 2.

Demetriou, however, had earlier said that she would not accept any appointment in government after her term.

The source said aside from Tuquero among those considered to head the Comelec are Court of Appeals administrator Alfredo Benipayo, former Sandiganbayan justice Manuel Pamaran, and Comelec director for education and information Ma. Angelina Matibag.

But the source, citing information provided by a Malacañang insider, said Tuquero's transfer to the Comelec was "in the bag."

Tuquero's appointment is expected to be announced on Feb. 2. Before Tuquero's name cropped up, the National Movement for Free Elections had endorsed Fr. Joaquin Bernas as Demetriou's successor. Bernas declined the nomination, citing a prohibition by the Jesuits.

It was not clear who would replace Tuquero but Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez was reportedly being offered the position. But Rodriguez, a former law dean and President Estrada's counsel in the 1998 elections, said he was staying in the BI.

Demetriou's term was shortened by a year after the Supreme Court ruled in December that the terms of office of officials of constitutional bodies like the Comelec, Commission on Audit and Civil Service Commission, shall end on Feb. 2, 2001 and not Feb. 2, 2002 as previously believed.

Comelec commissioner Julio Desamito, whose term will also end on Feb. 2 as an effect of the SC ruling, had contested the decision before the high tribunal but he was not joined by Demetriou and fellow commissioner Teresita Dy-Liacco Flores.

Demetriou said she will not continue acting as Comelec chair even if the SC will reverse its ruling.

"If the SC will issue a status quo order by reason of Commissioner Desamito's motion for reconsideration, I will resign instead of retire come Feb. 2," Demetriou said. "I am willing to forego my retirement pay of a few million pesos for the sake of averting a constitutional crisis."

"It is too small a price to pay for the country's political stability," she said.

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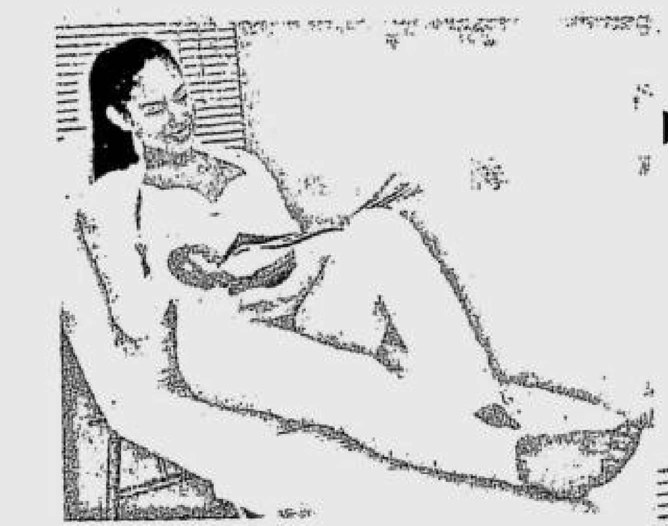

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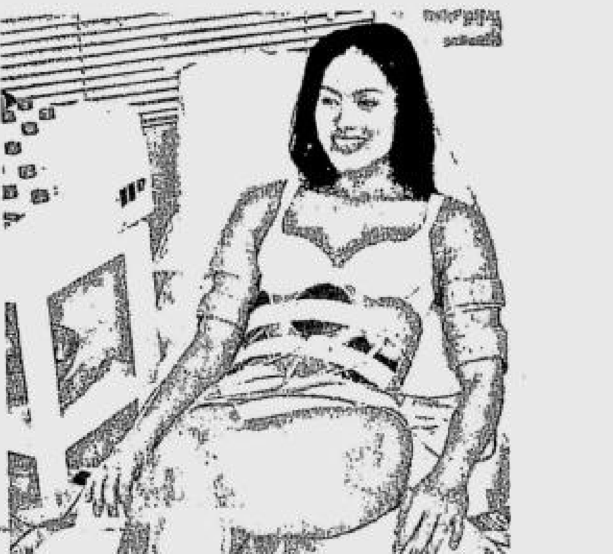

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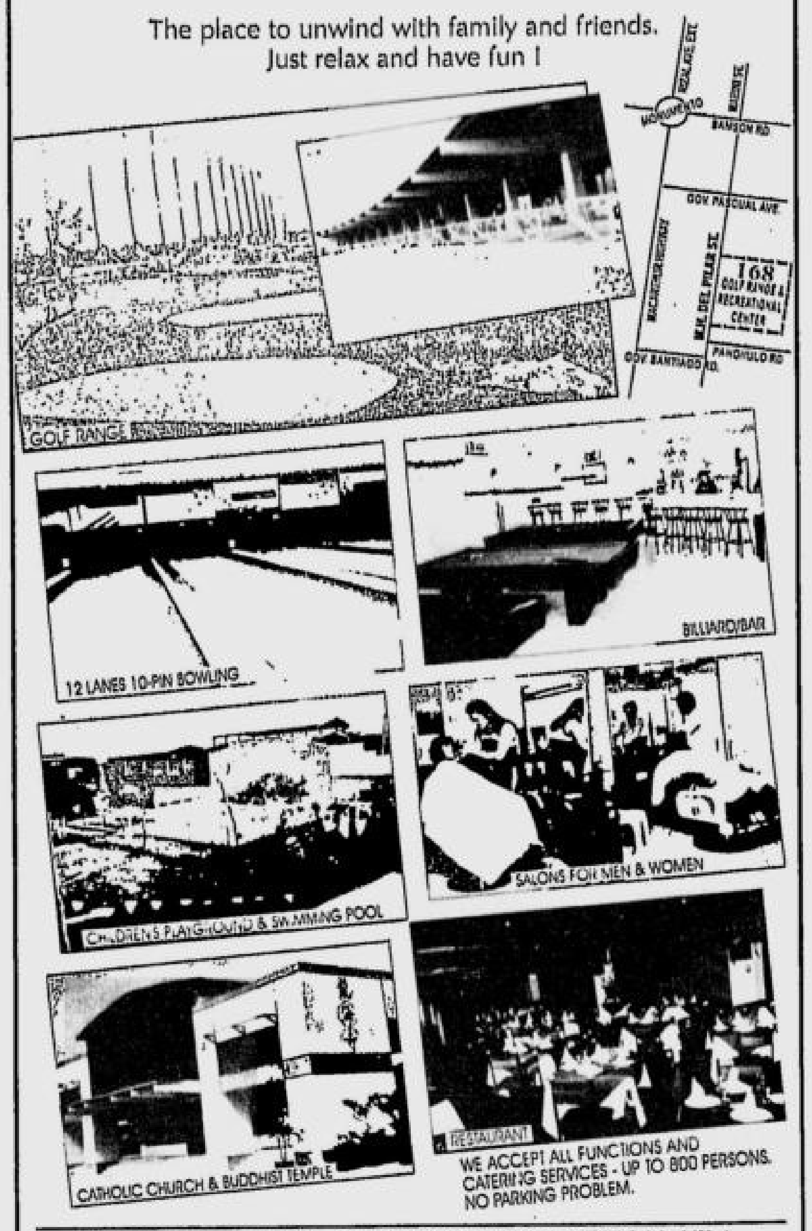
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Coco levy cash-in hit

By Cynthia D. Balana and Volt Contreras

THE MOVE to cash in the P50-billion coconut levy fund by the government has been assailed by a member of Congress and a militant farmers' group who warned it might be an administration ploy to gain support for beleaguered President Estrada.

Rep. Ralph Recto (Ind., Batangas) said Palace officials should think twice and wait until the seething political crisis is over before monetizing the fund's 27 percent stake in San Miguel Corp.

Recto warned against the fund being used "to pay for pro-Erap rent-a-crowds or to sway the sympathies of the coconut farmers to... this politically dead administration."

He said any move to monetize the fund "should be done legally and in a transparent manner... only after the dust of the political conflict has settled and after the market has fully recovered."

CRY OF BORACAY

Tourism, trash don't mix

By Andrea T. Echavez

BORACAY Island, Aklan—Tourism and garbage don't mix.

Fearing that the dumping of Metro Manila's garbage in Semirara Island would push through once the court lifted a temporary restraining order on Jan. 18, residents of this resort island asked the Estrada administration to permanently scrap the proposal to save the tourism industry.

"Definitely, tourism and garbage don't mix. If tourists learn that just a few miles from the sprawling white beaches of this island is a big dumping site, they will be apprehensive about coming here," said Charlie Uy, a resort owner and spokesperson of the newly formed Huwag Semirara Coalition.

He noted that Semirara was located only about 30 nautical miles from Boracay. It was not impossible, he said, for the leachate (polluted water) from Semirara to reach the resort island especially during the *habagat* (southwest monsoon) season.

"We have suffered enough in 1997 when the coliform issue was raised in the national media. We cannot afford to suffer more," said Chato Sacay, another resort owner and member of the Boracay Foundation.

Sacay, along with other members of the Boracay Foundation, launched a signature campaign last week registering the opposition of residents and even tourists to the proposed dumping of garbage at Semirara.

According to Mike Labatiao, president of the Boracay Diveshop Owners' Association, dumping waste at the abandoned coal mine in Semirara can also be disastrous to adjacent marine resources.

He said the area surrounding the island was the habitat of the endangered Philippine turtle and that vast mangroves and a carageenan plantation also surround Semirara Island.

"If they load one million kilos of garbage per day and only one percent of it drops on the seawater, can you imagine how much plastics and waste material will be washed ashore? That's 10,000 kilos per day," Labatiao said.

That amount, he said, would be very damaging to the marine life, especially the corals, in the surrounding area, which are among the main attractions of tourists going to Boracay and Mindoro.

Sacay added all the areas where the barges carrying the rubbish passed through would also be adversely affected.

"We're not only fighting here for Boracay but also for the other areas that will be affected in the long term—like Cavite, Batangas, the two Mindoro provinces and other neighboring areas," she said.

Uy, owner of Pink Patio, one of the biggest resorts in the island, said he was apprehensive about what the dumping of garbage on Semirara could mean to his employees and their families.

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PHILJA HOLDS SECOND PRE-JUDICATURE PROGRAM

The Academic Council of the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA) announces that it will hold the *Second Pre-Judicature Program* at the 2/F Supreme Court, New Building, Padre Faura Street, Manila, from January 29 – February 9, 2001 *for Phase I*, and on February 26 – *March 9, 2001, for Phase II*. Both Phases must be completed by participants.

Satisfactory completion of and compliance with the requirements of the Pre-Judicature Program is required for appointment to positions in the Judiciary pursuant to Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8557.

Interested parties may contact PHILJA at telephone number 523-6277 or telefax 523-9075 not later than **January 29, 2001.** Parties with pending applications for the Second Pre-Judicature Program are also required to pay the registration fee prior to the deadline set. All applicants are subject to an interview

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF REQUESTING THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF JUSTICE TO ASSIGN PROSECUTORS AS MEMBERS OF A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF ELECTION OFFENSES IN THE MAY 14, 2001 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND REITERATING THE CONTINUING DEPUTATION OF PROSECUTORS UNDER RULE 34 OF THE COMELEC RULES OF PROCEDURE.
x--x

DEMETRIOU, Harriet O.,	Chairman
DESAMITO, Julio F.,	Commissioner
FLORES, Teresita D.L.,	Commissioner
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.,	Commissioner
LANTION, Ralph C.,	Commissioner
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.,	Commissioner

Promulgated: 12 Janaury 2001

RESOLUTION NO. 3467

WHEREAS, one of the constitutional tasks of the Commission is to "investigate and where appropriate, prosecute cases of violations of election laws";

WHEREAS, in connection with the May 14, 2001 national and local elections, these tasks are hampered by the lack of lawyers of the Commission to handle the investigation and prosecution of election offenses;

WHEREAS, under Sec. 265 of the Omnibus Election Code, the Commission may avail itself of the assistance of the prosecuting arm of the government;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in it by Sec. 2, paragraph (6) Article IX-C of the Constitution, and Secs. 265 and 269 of the Omnibus Election Code, the Commission RESOLVED to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, as follows:

SECTION 1. *COMELEC - DOJ Special Task Force.* - The Commission hereby requests the Honorable Secretary of Justice to designate ten (10) Prosecutors of the Department of Justice as members of a special task force in the National Capital Region and two (2) Prosecutors in each province, hereinafter referred to as COMELEC - DOJ Special Task Force, which shall assist the Commission in the exercise of its power to conduct preliminary investigation of election offenses punishable under election laws, and prosecute the same. The Law Department shall supervise the investigatory and prosecutory functions of the COMELEC - DOJ Special Task Force.

For this purpose, the Commission hereby reiterates the continuing deputation of the Chief State Prosecutor, Provincial and City Prosecutors and their assistants under said Rule, as well as their powers and functions thereunder.

SEC. 2. *Functions of the COMELEC - DOJ Special Task Force.* - The COMELEC - DOJ Task Force shall have the following functions:

a) conduct inquest against persons apprehended in flagrante delicto for violation of election laws committed a day before and on election day and file the proper information in court, if warranted;

b) assist the officials and deputies of the COMELEC in the prosecution of election cases; and

c) perform such other functions that may be assigned by the Commission due to the exigency of the service.

SEC. 3. *Rules governing preliminary investigation and prosecution of other election offenses.* - Preliminary investigation and prosecution of other election law violations not included in Sec. 2 hereof shall be governed by the Comelec Rules and Procedures.

SEC. 4. *Turn over of documents and evidence in preliminary examination.* - In furtherance of the enforcement of the bans on firearms and security personnel and other election law violations, the PNP Chief of Police of cities/municipalities shall, after conducting the investigation of complainants and witnesses, require all officers and men under his jurisdiction to turn over all documents and evidence in connection with arrests made for violation of the election laws during the elections.

SEC. 5. *Where to hold office; progress reports.* - The COMELEC - DOJ Special Task Force shall hold office at the Law Department of the Commission. It shall submit to the Commission periodic progress reports of investigation and prosecutions handled by it under Sec. 2 hereof.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* - This resolution shall take effect after seven (7) days from its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 7. *Dissemination.* - The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this resolution and furnish a copy hereof to the Department of Justice and the Chief of the Philippine National Police for dissemination to the different station commanders in the country.

Let the Law Department implement this Resolution.

HARRIET O. DEMETRIOU
Chairman

JULIO F. DESAMITO
Commissioner

TERESITA DY-LIACCO FLORES
Commissioner

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Malacañang, Congress try to stem grave crisis

(From page A1)

ber House prosecution on Tuesday led to the indefinite adjournment of the Senate impeachment trial, leaving the verdict on the President hanging.

Resigned House Prosecutor Joker Arroyo earlier said the political crisis was pushing the country into a constitutional crisis.

But Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. does not believe that the country is faced with a constitutional crisis.

"There may be a crisis of political leadership but there is no constitutional crisis. None at all," Pimentel said.

Senate Majority Leader Francisco Tatad and Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Rodolfo Biazon and John Osmeña also disagreed with the view that the indefinite suspension of the impeachment trial could spawn a constitutional crisis.

Pimentel said there were no "easy fixes" to solve the leadership crisis.

"The fastest one that I can think of is for the House to recompose their prosecution team and the process will go on," he said.

Break the impasse

In Malacañang, President Estrada met with a group of congressmen Wednesday night to ask them to break the impasse brought about by the resignation of the prosecutors, a congressman who attended the meeting yesterday said.

The President wants the impeachment trial to continue to enable his defense lawyers to present evidence and witnesses, according to the source.

The congressman said the President told them that the matter was up to the House but that he wanted to get it done and over with "fast."

After 23 days of trial, only the prosecution was able to present its side by presenting more than 100 pieces of evidence and 30 witnesses.

Ernesto Maceda, Mr. Estrada's spokesperson in the impeachment trial, said it was only fair that the President be given the chance to present his side.

"It is only natural that if you have heard only the prosecution's witnesses since Dec. 7, you would say that the President is guilty," Maceda said before he left for the United States Wednesday night to attend the inauguration of US President George Bush on July 20.

"So, let's hear the other side, the defense, so everything would be balanced and the whole of the two sides would be heard before a decision could be made," he said.

Maceda urged the 11 members of the prosecution panel to go back and fulfill their duties in the impeachment proceedings.

Tatad admitted that the suspension of the trial was a problem for the President.

"Until the trial is concluded and there is a definite finding of innocence or guilt, then he will remain an impeached President without any clear verdict. So it is in the interest of the respondent that this trial be concluded," Tatad said.

In a bid to reconstitute the prosecution panel, House Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella met with some of the resigned prosecutors and discussed six "options."

However, no end to the crisis was in sight.

House Minority Leader Feliciano Belmonte Jr., former head of the prosecution team, said he was not inclined to go back and pursue the impeachment case against the President.

"If there is a crisis involving this body (the House). . . all we resolved (today) is that we continue to talk," Belmonte said.

He said the consultation should be "within reason and within honor."

Fuentebella said that the House was "not inclined" to accept the resignation of the prosecutors.

"We hope to finalize what option we will take not later than Sunday," he said.

Fuentebella disclosed that the majority bloc would approve a resolution next week to give a vote of confidence to the prosecutors for a "job well done."

He admitted that he attended the meeting in Malacañang but said that it had anything to do with the impeachment trial.

"Nobody tells us (what to do)). We are not talking to the President. I met with the President on other matters, (about) other projects," Fuentebella said.

The Speaker said he talked to representatives of the prosecution team yesterday because the withdrawal of the prosecutors from the case was a matter that placed the integrity of the House at stake.

"We have agreed on options on what to do . . . The House is solid and all decisions will be of the House as a whole," he said in a press conference where he also revealed that they discussed six options.

In a press conference, he and the other congressmen in the press conference, including the resigned prosecutors, refused to reveal the six options.

But other congressmen privy to the talks said that the six options were for the House to:

- Allow the prosecutors to go back to work.
- Elect a new set of prosecutors.
- Appoint private prosecutors to be backed up by two or three members of the minority bloc.
- Charge the prosecution team with "abandonment."
- Leave the matter up to the Senate which can then cite "failure of prosecution" and withdraw the case.
- Formally withdraw the case.

Senator Santiago said that if the prosecutors did not come back, the impeachment court could declare them in default.

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THE EVENTS LEADING TO THE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL, THE OVERWHELMING TESTIMONIES AND EVIDENCES PRESENTED DURING THE HEARINGS, AND THE REACTIONS AND RESPONSES OF PRESIDENT ESTRADA AND HIS SUPPORTERS BOTH IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT, LEAD THE MEMBERS OF PMA CLASS OF 1962, DESPITE ALL ODDS, TO PRESENT THIS MANIFESTO FOR **PRESIDENT ESTRADA TO RESIGN**. THE PRESIDENT IS DETERMINED TO HANG ON TO HIS POSITION NO MATTER WHAT, REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES IT MIGHT MAKE TO THE ECONOMY, TO THE UNITY AND STABILITY OF THE BODY POLITIC, TO THE SANCTITY OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY, TO THE HONOR AND PRESTIGE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND OF THE FILIPINOS IN THE EYES OF THE PEOPLES ALL OVER THE WORLD. THE QUESTION IS THEREFORE ASKED — IS THIS MANIFESTO, TO ADD TO THE DEAFENING CLAMOR FOR THE **PRESIDENT ESTRADA TO RESIGN**, AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY? A HOPELESS QUIXOTIC ENDEAVOR?

WE DON'T THINK SO. WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A HISTORIC EVENT NOT ONLY IN THE PHILIPPINES BUT IN ALL OF ASIA. THE MEMBERS OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLASS OF PMA 1962 WOULD LIKE TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED, TO MAKE OUR POSITION KNOWN, TO TELL TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE THAT DESPITE THE DEMEANING COMMENTS AND INSULTS FROM SOME OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT, WE CAN STILL CONTRIBUTE WHATEVER IS LEFT OF US AS RETIREES, AS WE CONTINUE IN OUR JOURNEY TO THE SUNSET OF OUR LIVES. EVEN IF PRESIDENT ESTRADA IS ACQUITTED, BECAUSE HE HAS THE NUMBERS AND AS CAN BE GLEANED BY THE BODY LANGUAGE OF SOME SENATOR JUDGES, WE ARE STILL CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR THE **PRESIDENT TO RESIGN**.

WE ARE GLAD THAT SOME POLITICIANS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS STATED THAT EVEN IF MILITARY AND POLICE RETIREES NO LONGER HAVE ACTUAL PHYSICAL INFLUENCE, THEY STILL HAVE MORAL INFLUENCE IN THE ARMED SERVICES. MAHATMA GANDHI, MARTIN LUTHER KING, AND EVEN NINOY AQUINO DID NOT HAVE THE MONEY NOR THE COERCIVE POWER OF GOVERNMENT BUT THEY SUCCEEDED IN MOVING PEOPLE TOWARDS THE DIRECTION OF WHAT IS RIGHT AND JUST. MORAL INFLUENCE IS JUST AS POWERFUL, IF NOT MORE POWERFUL, AS ACTUAL PHYSICAL INFLUENCE AS HISTORY HAS PROVEN IT TO BE. WE MUST NOT FORGET THE GREATEST MORAL LEADER OF THEM ALL, THE FISHERMAN WHO SAID - "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE-"

THE AFP AND THE PNP WILL HAVE A CRUCIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THE COMING DAYS. THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED SERVICES CANNOT BE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS, WATCHING THE PEOPLE GO HUNGRIER BY THE DAY, CONTAINING ANARCHY IN THE STREETS, TAKING ORDERS FROM AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE LOST THEIR MORAL ASCENDANCY TO GOVERN. THE OFFICERS, MEN AND WOMEN OF THE AFP AND THE PNP KNOW WHAT TO DO DURING THE CRITICAL DAYS AHEAD AS THEY HAVE DONE IN THE PAST FOR THE GOOD OF THEIR COUNTRY AND PEOPLE. THEY ARE CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC FIRST AND IN ADDITION THEY ARE SOLDIERS AND POLICEMEN. THEY HAVE WATCHED THE IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS JUST LIKE THE REST OF FILIPINO PEOPLE. THEY KNOW THE ISSUES, THEY ALSO WEIGH THE TESTIMONIES AND EVIDENCES, AND THEY SURELY KNOW IN THEIR HEARTS AND IN THEIR MINDS IF PRESIDENT ESTRADA IS GUILTY OR NOT IN ALL OF THE ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT. BY THE GRACE OF GOD THEY KNOW WHAT TO DO.

GOD BLESS US ALL.

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We must . . .

(From page A1)

dent of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, demanded the President's resignation and urged the public to fight for justice.

In Baguio City, government workers from various agencies in the Cordillera lighted candles and marched along Session Road after office hours.

The protesters, who wore white, black and red shirts, gathered at the Malcolm Square and heard an ecumenical Mass.

Law students of the Baguio Colleges Foundation walked out of their classrooms and staged a rally outside a mansion owned by businessman Manuel Zamora on Paterno Street. The mansion was rumored to be owned by the President.

Transport strike

Transport groups plying major routes in Pampanga will hold a provincewide strike today. Workers and students would also stage a walkout today, according to Angeles City Councilor Alexander Cauguiran, spokesperson of the Coalition for the Ouster of Erap (Core).

Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz endorsed a provincial board resolution condemning the 11 senator-judges who voted against the opening of the second envelope by the impeachment court.

In Nueva Vizcaya, Bishop Ramon Villena of the Bayombong-Qurino Diocese warned the reelectionists among the 11 "no" senators that they would not win in the May elections.

"These senators' political survival is in danger. Unless they will make a tremendous turnabout, like doing a heroic deed," Villena said in a statement.

Some 500 members of the Estrada Resign Movement (ERM) in Quezon province left for Manila early yesterday to join the throng of people massing at the Edsa Shrine.

Yzrael Felisco, ERM-Quezon spokesperson, appealed to the affluent in Makati City to form a food brigade to help the protesters, who are mostly farmers, workers and slum dwellers.

"Medicines and warm clothes would also be of great help," he said.

In Iriga City, the ERM held a torch parade last night, with some 7,000 people, mostly students, participating.

Government employees and officials in Naga City started wearing black shirts and black armbands Wednesday in support of "People Power II."

Visayas

People in Maasin City in Southern Leyte, Roxas City in Capiz and San Jose, Antique, yesterday joined fellow Visayans from the cities of Bacolod, Cebu and Iloilo who have been holding rallies and noise barrages since Tuesday night.

Bigger protest actions are expected today, which was also declared a "National Day of Protest" by the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines, composed of 1,173 Catholic schools in the country.

Some 2,300 elementary, high school and college students of St. Anthony's College marched on the main streets in San Jose, Antique.

In Roxas City, some 3,000 people attended a prayer-rally sponsored by the Capiz Archdiocese at the Dinggoy Roxas Civic Center.

In his homily, Capiz Archbishop Onesimo Gordoncillo urged his flock to continue to pray and reflect so they could mobilize themselves to promote and defend moral truth.

In Cebu, about 200 youths braved the rain and held a noise barrage in front of the Fuente Osmeña rotunda from 7 p.m. to midnight Wednesday.

In Bacolod, about 100 members of Sanlakas and the Bukluran ng Mangbubukid sa Pilipinas staged a vigil in front of City Hall. They brought a coffin to "symbolize the death of justice."

More than 100,000 people are expected in today's bigger rally spearheaded by Dioceses of Bacolod, Kabankalan and San Carlos at the Bacolod Public Plaza.

In Aklan, Kalibo Bishop Gabriel V. Reyes will lead a prayer-rally at the Pastrana Park this morning.

Mindanaoans outraged by Tuesday night's vote by the impeachment court yesterday took to the streets again and are preparing for huge rallies today.

The protests disproved claims by South Cotabato Rep. Luwalhati Antonino, a LAMP senatorial candidate, that there are "no demonstrations" in Mindanao and that the people there "don't care what Manilans are doing."

Rev. Avelino Sichon, spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in the South Cotabato-Sarangani-General Santos (Socsargen) area, said pocket rallies were being held everyday until Mr. Estrada resigns.

In Davao City, priests from the Davao Archdiocese yesterday held a 50-vehicle motorcade, urging the public to take to the streets to pressure Mr. Estrada to resign and to give support in prayers, cash or kind to the protesters.

'Freedom Wall'

A newly formed coalition, the Citizens Action Group, set up a "nerve center" at the Centennial Park along San Pedro Street for the "Citizen's Call to Action and Moral Outrage."

A "Freedom Wall" was also put up for people to express their anger through writings or drawings.

In Ozamiz City, Archbishop Jesus Dosado urged his flock in Misamis Occidental to express their "moral outrage" over the "scandalous spectacle" at the impeachment trial.

"It is up to the people as to what form their moral outrage would take shape for as long as they are nonviolent," he said in a pastoral letter.

For the first time in 15 years, Ozamiznons were surprised when some 5,000 college and high school students of the Immaculate Conception College marched on the main streets Wednesday, chanting "Erap Resign."

'Truth crucified'

In North Cotabato, Bishop Romulo Valles of the Diocese of Kidapawan said in a statement that the 11 senators "have subverted the yet untried democratic process of impeachment. They have crucified truth."

"They, and their like, should never again be allowed to hold public office," he said.

In Pagadian City, a committee was formed by the Catholic Diocese to map out plans on how to sustain the daily rallies until Mr. Estrada and his entire Cabinet resign.

Bishop Zacarias Jimenez urged all nongovernment, civic and advocacy groups all over the province to join the rallies.

Diocesan schools yesterday led rallies in Pagadian and in the neighboring towns of Tukuran and Dumalinao in Zamboanga del Sur.

In Marawi City, some 200 members of the Bangsamoro Youth Movement staged a rally in downtown to demand the resignation of Mr. Estrada and the pullout of the military from Lanao.

In Cagayan de Oro, protesters have taken turns manning the "Democracy center" at the city bandstand since Tuesday night.

In Cotabato City, noise barrages, candle lighting activities and prayer rallies were being held daily.

At 1 p.m. yesterday, some 1,000 people trooped to the city plaza and assailed the Estrada administration and the 11 "no" senators. *Yolanda Fuertes, Desiree Caluza and Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Carmela Reyes and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Carla P. Gomez, Hazel P. Villa, Gerry T. Pagharion, Jani Arnaiz, Connie E. Fernandez, Roger V. Paller and Odon S. Bandiola, PDI Visayas Bureau; Carolyn O. Arguillas, Amy B. Cabusao, Edwin O. Fernandez, Aquiles Z. Zonio, Jowel F. Canuday, Merpu P. Roa, Bobby Timonera, Froilan Gallardo, Ayan C. Mellejor and Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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THE CRUISE Training Unit of the Republic of Korea Navy will visit Manila from Jan. 21-24. The unit, headed by Rear Admiral Byung Chil Chung, will have various public relations and goodwill activities during its call.

ROKS Taecheong (Logistics Support Ship), ROKS Kwanggaeto (the Great Destroyer), and ROKS Chungju (Frigate) are the participating vessels of this year's training with a total of 770 crew members, including 150 midshipmen on board.

This year's training unit began its voyage in October 2000 in Chinhae, South Korea.

The unit then stopped in Guam, Hawaii, Vancouver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Acapulco, Puerto Quetzal in Peru, Tahiti, Darwin in Australia and Manila, its 12th port of call. The training unit is visiting 13 harbors of 13 countries around the Pacific Ocean, and will continue cruising to the last port of call which is in Tokyo, Japan.

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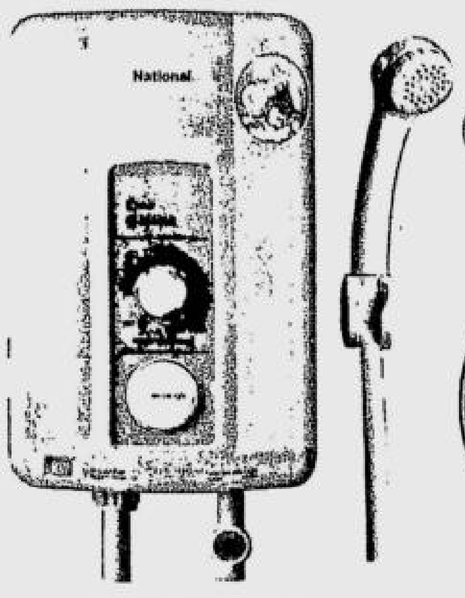

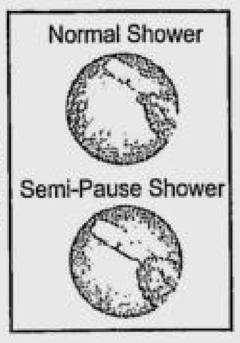

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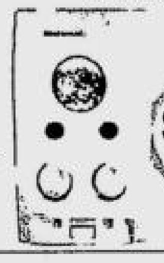

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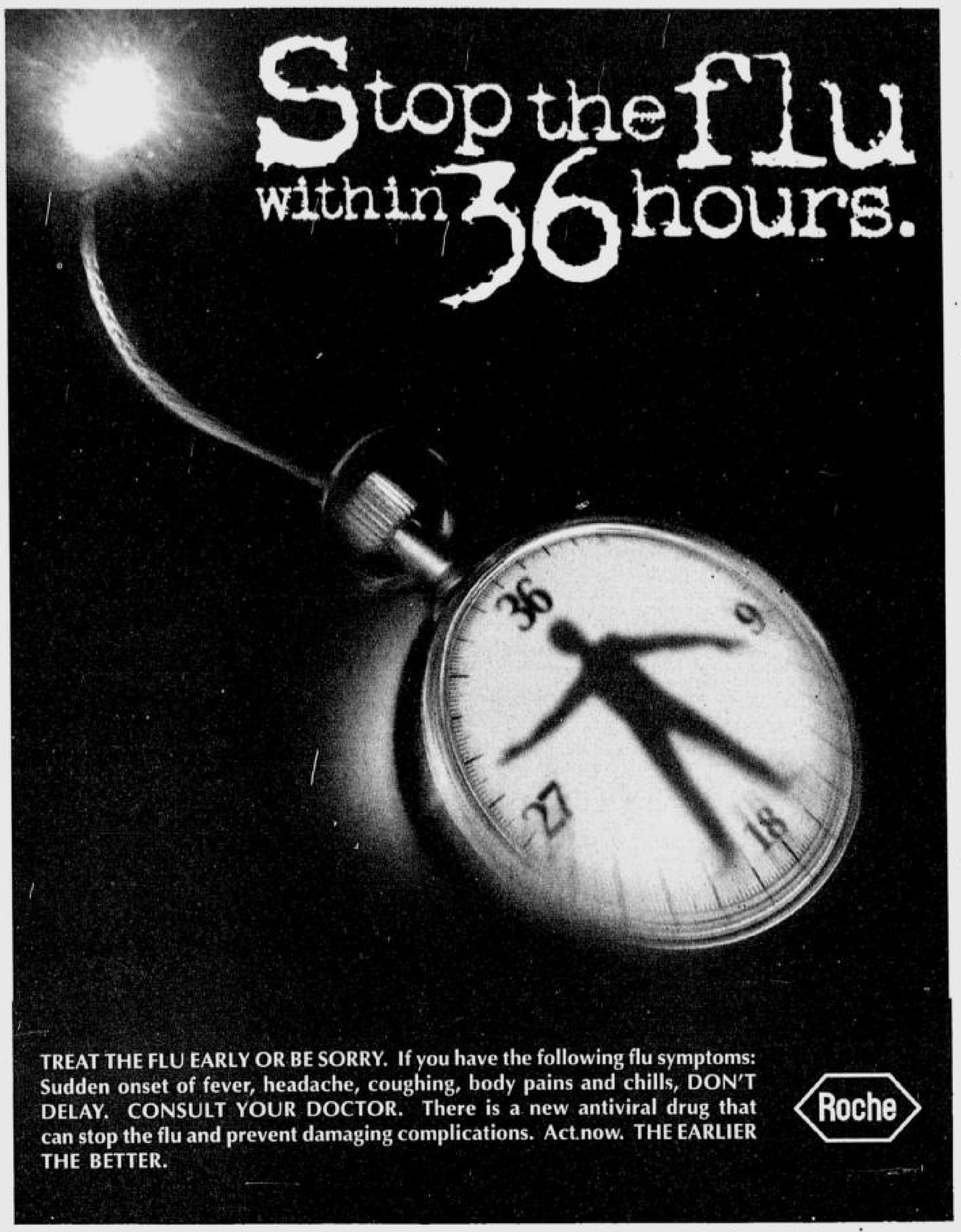

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OPINION

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Founding Chairman

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EDITORIALS

Vulgar dance

LIKE Nero fiddling while Rome was burning, Sen. Teresita Aquino-Oreta danced as the reputation of the historic institution that is the Senate came crashing down. Oreta was caught by TV cameras heckling some spectators in the gallery and then doing a jig Tuesday night, after she and 10 other pro-administration senators voted against the opening of the second envelope containing documents pertaining to the account of "Jose Velarde" in Equitable PCI Bank. That very partisan vote severely damaged the credibility of the Senate, said Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. who announced that he was relinquishing his post after voting for the opening of the envelope.

Oreta staged her victory dance even as opposition senators were weeping and embracing Pimentel in admiration for his strong show of protest over the very clear attempt of the majority to suppress the disclosure of damaging evidence against President Estrada. Oreta would later give some convoluted explanations for her act, but to many it was an obscene display of insensitivity by someone who has always been perceived to be servile to Malacañang.

Former President Corazon Aquino, in a very obvious dig at her sister-in-law, later told the crowd of Edsa to choose the relatives they would bring to the street protests. Jaime Cardinal Sin, referring to Oreta in his speech at the Edsa Shrine the morning after, said: "I pity her. I pity her. I pity her."

The cardinal was too kind and forgiving.

Reckless miscalculation

BUT for all the vulgarity of Oreta's dance, the real outrage was what she and the 10 other pro-Estrada senators did when they refused to let the Senate take a look at the Jose Velarde bank records. With House Majority Leader Francisco Tatad and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile leading the charge, they succeeded in suppressing the disclosure of vital evidence that would have tied the loose ends in the case of graft and corruption against the President.

Some administration senators gave varied reasons to justify their vote, like possible violation of the bank secrecy law. But their main argument revolved around the curious theory advanced by Mr. Estrada's lawyers that looking at the bank records would have the effect of amending the Articles of Impeachment. The prosecution stumbled upon the bank records after the articles had been approved by the House, they said, and therefore they cannot be introduced as evidence.

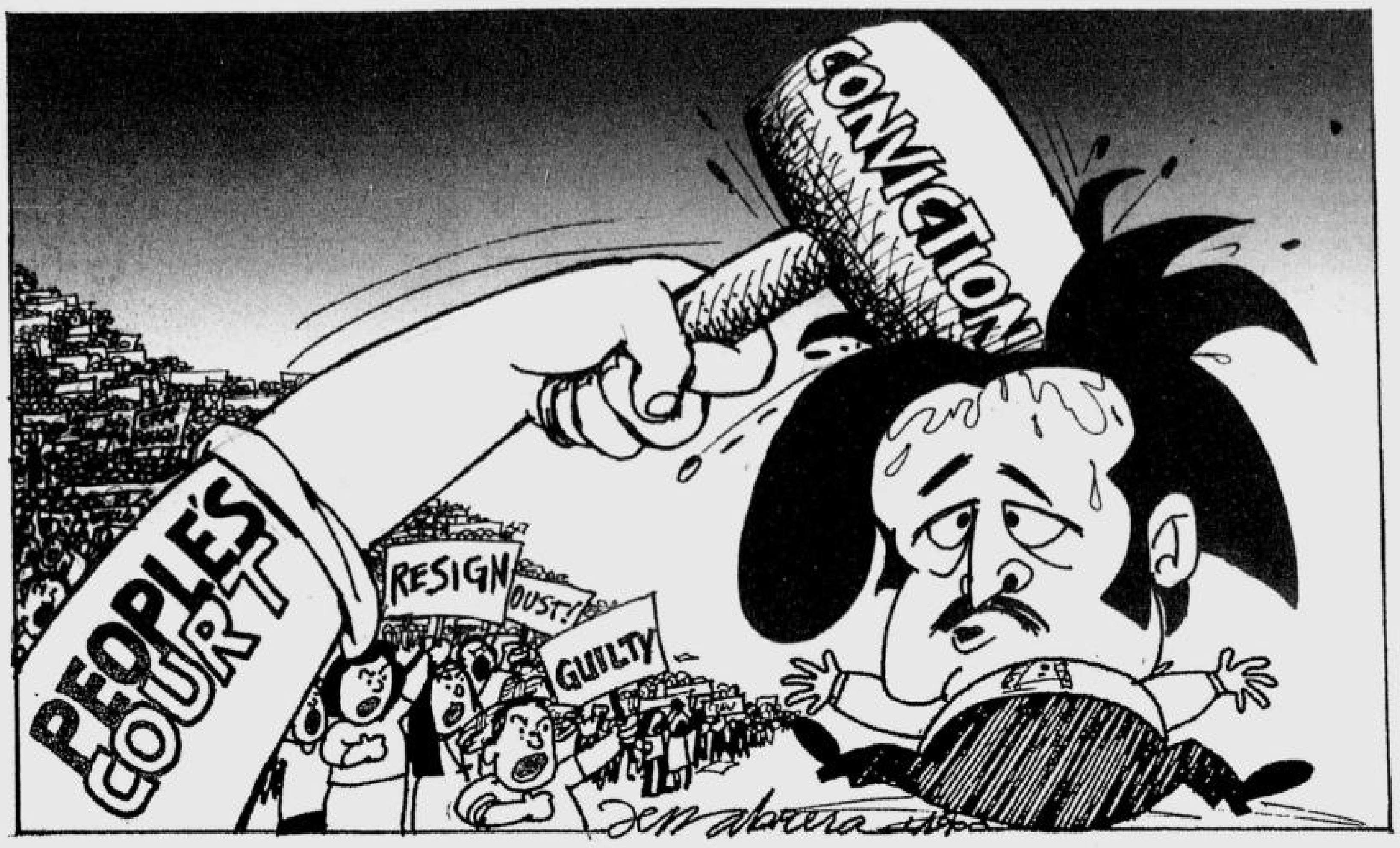
Maybe it's beyond the ken of ordinary Filipinos to grasp fine legal distinctions. But the Filipinos who followed closely the impeachment trial certainly know the difference between crime and evidence. Article 2 charges Mr. Estrada with the crime of graft and corruption. Those bank documents constitute evidence in support of that allegation.

The distinction looks simple to ordinary eyes. Mr. Estrada's lawyer and Senate allies just made it look complicated.

But they had to, for how else could they have saved his skin? Equitable PCI Bank senior vice president Clarissa Ocampo testified that Mr. Estrada signed a trust management agreement for P500 million using the name of Jose Velarde on Feb. 4, 2000. Mr. Estrada declared total assets worth P35 million at the end of 1999. The anti-graft law says assets found to be disproportionate to an official's income are prima facie evidence of graft and corruption. The bank records contained in the envelope show that a total of P3.23 billion was deposited in the Jose Velarde account over a period of 11 months. One transaction involved the transfer of P500 million on Feb. 4, 2000.

Those documents would have wrapped up the case against Mr. Estrada. It had to be suppressed at all cost. It was time to call in the loyal troops. And they did what they were ordered to do. Never mind if it would bring disrepute to their own names. Never mind if it ruined the reputation of the institution. Never mind if it thwarted the administration of justice.

What they forgot to reckon with was the wrath of the people. With this reckless miscalculation, the nation has been thrown into a political maelstrom whose conclusion defies prediction.



Erap forces made a tactical error on Senate vote

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

AFTER THE SUCCESSFUL Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 8, 1941, the architect of the plan, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, was worried.

"We may have awakened a sleeping tiger," he said.

Indeed, the raid awakened and angered a sleeping United States who didn't want to join the war. Its armament factories churned out tanks, planes and ships, developed the atom bomb and, within a few years, forced the Japanese Empire to surrender.

I recall this bit of history because of what happened at the Senate last Tuesday. Erap's defense panel in the impeachment court, the Dirty Eleven, may have won the battle over the mystery envelope, but that victory may have awakened the sleeping tiger that is the Filipino people. Erap's forces may have won that battle but it may eventually lose the war. The street protests that erupted on Tuesday night soon after the vote, not only in Metro Manila but also in other cities and provincial capitals all over the country, were spontaneous. Which shows how angry the people are at the suppression of truth in the Senate. The street demonstrations are spreading; the protesters have vowed not to give up until Erap is kicked out of Malacañang. The street marches have petered out because the people were willing to give the impeachment trial a chance. They flared up again because they discovered they wouldn't get justice there.

It took three years after the assassination of Ninoy Aquino for People Power I to drive Marcos out of Malacañang. People Power II may take less than that.

Like Yamamoto, Malacañang is worried. Which explains the series of panic-stricken meetings in the Palace. The memory of the humiliating flight of the Marcoses in 1986 is still fresh in their minds.

Malacañang was also in panic when it issued the marching orders to the Dirty Eleven in the Senate to block the opening of that second envelope. Which, as it turns out, was a tactical error. So what if the envelope is opened? So what if the smoking gun is exposed? Erap forces have the numbers. The prosecution can present all the evidence they want, the Dirty Eleven can still acquit him in the end without even explaining their votes.

Showing their hands too early was a mistake born of panic. It only prompted the prosecution panel (the Avenging Eleven, this time) to resign. Why participate in a *moro-moro* in which the result is already determined? Why give it legitimacy?

Erap may still be in Malacañang but he is still not acquitted. The impeachment trial is only suspended. It can be resumed after the elections when a dozen new senators and a new set of congressmen would be elected. Or the House of Representatives can file a new set of better-prepared impeachment charges in October, after the one-year ban on the filing of new impeachment charges has elapsed. By campaigning very hard, the opposition can have candidates sympathetic to its cause elected. With the present mood of the public, the reelectionists among the Dirty Eleven don't have a ghost of a chance of winning. The suspension will also give the prosecution more time to gather evidence.

Erap forces know this. That is why defense lawyer Raul Daza wanted to put a deadline on the resumption of the trial. (If the trial is not resumed after the deadline, the trial will be terminated. But Sen. Raul Roco saw Daza's intention and put him in his place.) That is why Malacañang wants the trial to continue. So that Erap would not be put in limbo. So that the Dirty Eleven can formally acquit him. So that he can truthfully say that he was acquitted by the impeachment court after a formal trial.

But that is not going to be. Erap will have to squirm and suffer through a continuation of the trial or a new one wherein the prosecution would be better prepared and have more evidence.

The suspension will also give Erap more time to bargain a graceful exit and better terms in exchange for stepping down. If this is chess, Erap is already checkmated. He has to resign.

* * *

A word on the rallies around the Edsa Shrine. I don't think this will force Erap to step down. He doesn't have the *hiya* that other leaders usually have. He would just wait for the people to lose enthusiasm, energy and time and the crowds to peter out. It would be the same as in a strike. As the strike lengthens, the strikers in the picket line get fewer until only the placards are left. This is different from People Power I in that it has no military component and no United States of America to put fear and pressure in the hearts of Erap and his supporters.

Laguna Gov. Joey Lina is right: the rallies must be held around Malacañang. With the great mass of people gathered around the Palace, nobody would be able to go in and out of it except by helicopter. The Pasig River can also be blocked by boats. Erap would be isolated. That should put fear in his heart, so much that he would finally decide that stepping down would be much better than all that aggravation.

* * *

TODAY's Erap joke:

It is not true that Ate Guy dropped Erap like a hot potato because she discovered that while he gave her only a townhouse, he gave his other mistresses mansions. And that while he has billions in the banks, he gave her only peanuts.

The joke is that Ate Guy discovered that Tessie Aquino-Oreta is infatuated with Erap and that he actually proposed marriage.

There was only one thing that prevented Tessie from accepting the proposal: her initials would be TAE.

What happens now?

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

I HAVE been asked over the last couple of weeks to comment on the Senate trial on live television. I trust that those who have not heard my comments have nothing to complain about while those who have, found the tenor of my annotation both professional and fair. I don't always succeed, but I try.

Nonetheless, it is good to have been in the Senate to witness history unfold first-hand, to huddle in a corner with lawyers for the prosecution or the defense, or with senators, other members of media, witnesses, or guests. There is joy in seeing the demonstrators outside express their opinions vigorously, even if they occasionally base them upon a misplaced premise. We all have a constitutional right to make mistakes from time to time and to embarrass ourselves before God while embarrassing others before man. God bless us.

Still I understand how passions run high. I, too, have private opinions. Let me simply state that I have friends on both sides of this political divide and I have, and let me state this as neutrally as I can, strongly disagreed with their views or actions on this or that matter.

So what happens now? Wednesday's lead in this newspaper, "People power launched," may prove the most prescient in Philippine press history. Or it may turn out to be the most anticipatory since the 1948 "Dewey defeats Truman" headline in the Chicago Daily Tribune. None of us can say which. We can only individually declare our political preferences. The situation is so unsettled that every time we render an opinion, we risk making a major mistake.

Still, it was important that the Senate continue the process even if only to formally acknowledge a change of venue to the House of Representatives before it adjourned. The cameras heretofore focused on the Senate presumably shift back to the House.

Unfortunately, the rulebook runs out there. There are no precedents of any kind for this situation and not even the House could have anticipated the present state of affairs. And it is complexed by the fact that when the House prosecutors resigned, the party that needs to accept that resignation and name their successors is the very House of which the majority is controlled by allies of the administration.

The House presumably can take one of several actions. It can reject the resignations or request the prosecutors to reconsider. But the prosecutors might be adamant. It can accept the resignation and name new managers. These managers need to be selected from among the 77 or so who signed the original Articles of Impeachment. But no one among them may be willing to accept this task.

The resigned prosecutors set the tone and this will be the dilemma of newly appointed managers of the case, if any. What will these managers represent, the sentiments of the House as it is constituted, the sentiments of the congressmen who originally drafted the Articles of Impeachment, or the larger political class outside the House allied with the cause?

Moreover, the House does not have forever to settle these disputatious matters. The Feb. 12 deadline approaches and the presentation of evidence by the prosecution is far from complete. Which, if the street protests are indecisive, puts off the whole issue to the May elections and beyond. Expect an emotional debate in the House. Another option available to the House is to leave the matter in limbo. This would be unwise for the administration as it would merely make permanent the transfer of the debate to the streets and leave the fate of the President in the hands of the May electorate.

The advantage of these impeachment proceedings for the administration is that for as long as these processes are active, in either House of Congress, many people may view the call for People Power to be premature. This is why Tuesday's vote was so damaging to the administration.

Either party can use this hiatus to forward one of innumerable possible legal and legislative manuevers. The delay in the House could conceivably be used by the prosecution to get Sen. Robert Barbers to return, assuming he is physically able to, get sworn in, and vote, presumably tieing the vote 11-11 in case the prosecution asks for a motion for reconsideration, leaving the deciding vote to the Chief Justice. That, it is believed, would be unfavorable to the defense. And we would be back to opening that second envelope.

Beyond that, it is difficult to predict the outcome. What does the second envelope contain? Will its evidence be gravely damaging to the defense as advertised or can the defense embrace the evidence as true and still justifiably explain it away? Will the media links of the details of alleged bank accounts of the President continue? Will the Palace explain? Can it? Can the group of 11 hold together despite the pressures and public abuse they have been subjected to? And how much more punishment can the economy take? Can People Power be sustained? Will there be the military component to complete the analogy to 1986? Alternatively, what will be the effect of the election rhetoric and the outcome of the elections in May?

Every effort should be made to shepherd this process to a proper conclusion. It is vital that those who are in favor of the removal of Joseph Estrada from office continue to operate in the context of a democratic process. But the truth also needs to come out. Equally, the administration should not attempt to exclude even its most rabid opponents from that process or attempt to govern without their participation.

Beyond that, if the President survives this crisis, we need to see genuine reform, in form and substance. Already, large numbers of ordinary citizens have expressed their anger and opposition to the President and say it is already too late for anything but resignation. It is indisputable that the administration has in the past months used up enormous amounts of goodwill even among its own supporters. Without thorough change and sacrifice, there will be precious little goodwill left with to govern.

So many questions to answer, so little time.

Bandwagon of defections

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE 11-10 decision of the impeachment tribunal to lock vital evidence in the second envelope supplied by Equitable PCI Bank has thrown the fat into the fire.

It has triggered a second wave of withdrawal of support for President Estrada, beginning with the resignation of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., from the Senate presidency. His resignation set in train the resignation of Norberto Nazareno from the presidency of the state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. and the withdrawal of support for the President by a close friend, actress Nora Aunor, and by a group of stars in the movie industry led by award-winning director Marilou Diaz-Abaya.

The defections of the box-office stars of the movie industry have a crushing impact because the stars, especially Aunor, are the medium that links him to the masses. The movie industry is the President's original base and hardest-core constituency. It was from this industry where the President launched a year ago his campaign of financial strangulation of the INQUIRER with a call for an advertising boycott of the INQUIRER.

Aunor's defection explodes the President's claim that he still enjoys the blind support of the masses. With her abandonment of the President, the groundswell for his resignation unleashed by the tribunal's vote can no longer be claimed as driven by the Makati elite or the noisy middle class. The idols of the masses have joined the clamor for the President's removal, and in a concrete translation of their disillusionment of the President, they have now joined the Edsa People Power Revolution II, relaunched by the backlash against the vote in the Senate and developing into an avalanche of unrest against the administration.

Aunor has joined the growing ranks of movie personalities who have joined the People Power rallies at Edsa, among them, Cavite Gov. Bong Revilla and wife Lani Mercado, Rosanna Roces, Gary Valenciano and Ramon Fernandez. Award-winning director Abaya, has brought along a cavalcade of actors and actresses behind the call for the President's resignation. Aunor now finds herself on the same side in this crisis with her longtime movie rival, Vilma Santos, mayor of Lipa City.

Aunor, talking as an insider like the whistleblower Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, knows much about the President, and she has said that she recognized the handwriting of the President signed as Jose Velarde in the Equitable PCI Bank documents testified to by the bank's senior vice president, Clarissa Ocampo. Aunor said it was the Senate vote and Pimentel's defection that were the last straw that broke the back of her support for the President. More galling to the President is that she confessed she had been a victim of his violence.

The second wave of defections and withdrawal of support that followed the Senate vote has a more powerful impact in unsettling the administration than the first wave unleashed by the resignation of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Manuel Roxas III from the Cabinet in October and November, respectively, and the defection of former Speaker Manuel Villar and then Senate President Franklin Drilon from the majority coalition in Congress, and the resignation of the private sector representatives from the President's council of senior economic advisers also in November. The President recovered from the shock of these defections after halting a further wave of resignations.

But the Senate 11-10 vote quickly led to the collapse of the impeachment trial, damaging the Senate's credibility, and ignited a national conflagration of indignation that channeled the constitutional crisis into the streets. The market signaled its own anxieties over the political unrest with a sharp drop of the value of the peso exchange rate relative to the US dollar, dipping to 56 from 50 before the suspension of the impeachment trial. The Philippine Stock Exchange index tumbled to the biggest single-day decline in two years, with a 6-percent drop the day after the Senate decision.

Pimentel's resignation from the Senate presidency delivered a shocking blow to the weakening foundations of presidential grip on power since it was followed by the defection of the actors and actresses and the resignation of Nazareno from the PDIC, who said he was disappointed over the decision of the Senate majority to "suppress the truth." The decision sparked further unrest in the business community which has already been alienated by the scandals of corruption exploding around the administration.

A group of business associations led by the Makati Business Club stepped up their demand for the resignation of the President and his Cabinet to make way for the rebuilding of the shattered economy and the confidence of domestic and international investors in the government. Some business leaders have already decided to join the demonstrations pushing for the removal of the President.

The snowballing street unrest, the rapid deterioration of the economy, and the new round of defections, especially by the movie actors and actresses, with whom the masses identify, have piled up pressures on the President to step down. These developments have put stronger pressures on the President's economic managers, fanning rumors of another round of Cabinet resignations. The pressure is particularly strong on Finance Secretary Jose Pardo and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla whose job of reviving the economy has been seriously hampered by the series of political shocks rocking the administration.

The narrow Senate majority still supporting the President has made futile efforts to revive the collapsed impeachment trial. There is little chance the House of Representatives can replace quickly its prosecution panel which withdrew from the trial in protest against the decision denying the prosecution's access to the sealed Equitable PCI Bank documents. The President's men are working on Pimentel to withdraw his resignation, but a withdrawal will cause Pimentel to lose face.

Hearts and larders

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WEDNESDAY morning, members of the Edsa Shrine community spotted a man obviously in search of someone to talk to. When they asked him what he wanted, the man said he had brought with him five kilos of cooked pancit and wanted to know to whom he could turn over the food. It turns out that his family owns a *carinderia* and the pancit was as an expression of their support.

What takes the cake (or noodles) was that the pancit itself was so tasty, "not cooked for bulk but obviously out of love," as my source observes.

That evening, a truck with signage of a bread maker stopped at the Edsa overpass. The driver got out and started dumping plastic bags over the edge. The ralliers thought the man was at first throwing garbage at them until they realized that the man was dropping bread from overhead, "like manna from heaven," as someone who was there says.

Yesterday morning, as shown on TV news footage, a culinary school went a step further, fielding student chefs, complete with white toques, who cooked hot scrambled eggs over portable stoves to grateful over-nighters.

When my children, or foreigners, ask me about the Edsa Revolt 15 years ago, their eyes open wide in astonishment, or narrow with skepticism, when I tell them of those extraordinary three days, when Filipinos of all ages, classes and persuasions came together to win back our freedom. Sometimes, I also wonder if those events and the sense of bonding and incredible courage and generosity we witnessed were but a fairy tale, never to become real. Well, we are seeing "the spirit of Edsa" come alive again. Without much advance planning and organizing, "People Power Part II" has exploded. And without much prodding, the people have opened their hearts and larders in response to the call of the times and the growling bellies of the Edsa crowd.

* * *

GIVEN the crisis—or opportunity—created by popular anger at the events last Tuesday evening, the call for resignation of all reasonable and "salvageable" (in the original sense of the word) members of the Estrada Cabinet and government was issued once again. What are they waiting for? The people have decided. We have kept our patience, and followed their urgings that we calm down, observe the proceedings, trust in its transparency and believe that the search for truth was for real. Well, as Tuesday evening's events have shown, the people's trust and confidence have been ground to dust, crushed underfoot by the arrogant and heedless vote of "Joe's Cohorts," someone's clever arrangement of the Naysaying Eleven.

The people have voted with their presence at rallies and their overwhelming rejection of the President. If men and women of sincerity and goodwill steadfastly choose to stand by Erap, then they share in his guilt and in his sins.

This is the message of a letter to members of the Estrada administration from pagbabago@pilipinas, a group of young professionals committed to bringing about peaceful but deep-rooted changes in Philippine society. The letter was written before Tuesday's events, but the point is still, if not even more, "material and relevant" in these times.

Here's the letter in full:

* * *

DEAR Honorable Member of Government,

Life is short and it could have been shorter for us were we on the LRT coach arriving at Blumentritt station at noon last Dec. 30. There is little time to waste.

Let us be frank. You are serving a President who has already been established on live nationwide TV to be a liar and thief. The only remaining debate in the Senate trail concerns, first, whether his theft of at least P500 million is "material and relevant"; and second, whether enough of the senators will vote that his lying and thieving is beyond what their individual consciences can bear. But the President's lying and thievjng are already beyond doubt. What remains in doubt is only whether he will lose his position because of such lies and theft.

You, honorable member of the Estrada government, are an extension of a liar and thief. Since you are a presumably intelligent, honest, dedicated and sacrificing public servant, you are an intelligent, honest, dedicated and sacrificing stalwart in the service of lying and thieving in government. Your honesty cannot mitigate the dishonesty of your President because as part of the executive you are exercising the powers and authorities which our Constitution vests on the President of the Philippines.

With due respect to your prudence, honor and sound judgment, you delude yourself by thinking that your continued stay in the Cabinet of a lying and thieving President is motivated by the highest and noblest reasons. So you tell yourself these fairy tales: that you are protecting the country from even worse suffering; that no one else can carry on your vital reforms and excellent programs; that you have kept your part of the government clean; that past and future presidents are no better than this one; that it is not your job to make political judgments of the President; that anyway your stand is not crucial to this crisis; that it is best to just await the Senate's verdict.

These fairy tales do not alter your fundamental reality: every day you go to office, issue orders and conduct business using the poisoned powers and tainted authority of a President who is a liar and thief. From a free, reasonable and responsible individual motivated by the desire to serve our people, you have been transformed into a mindless minion of "Jose Velarde," "Asiong Salonga" or "Joseph Estrada," different names, same essence—lying and thieving in government. If you want to go on with your life in that kind of hell on this earth, go ahead. Anyway, life is short and people's memories are even shorter. (You hope.—**RJD**)

Matauhan na tayo.

Winning by one vote

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN people absolve themselves from their actions by asking history to decide whether they are right or wrong, they default by postponing judgment—they presume wrongly—for at least a decade. Historians require the sobering effects of time to gain perspective, and an understanding that results in compassion. However, things have changed in the digital age—history unfolds quickly on the net, on cellp hone texting, radio, and television. People of the new millennium do not have the patience to wait for historical perspective, they do not want to wait for the actors in history to be long dead before they are judged.

Last Tuesday when the Senate voted 11-10 not to open an envelope that contained crucial evidence on the Erap impeachment case, we saw it live on television, heard it live on radio, read about it live on our cell phones. We were disgusted by the NO votes and retched at Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, cell phone in hand, jumping and dancing with glee to taunt an angry crowd in the gallery. History's judgment she will feel when she runs again for public office.

This is not the first time Philippine history has taken a particular course because of one vote. On Feb. 6, 1899, the US Senate had the Treaty of Paris on its agenda. The treaty ended the Spanish-American War of 1898, and one of its articles provided for the cession of the Philippines to the United States by Spain for the bargain basement price of US$20 million. Naturally, both countries knew that Emilio Aguinaldo had declared the Philippines independent of Spain on June 12, 1898 but chose not to recognize that independence to complete the deal.

Aguinaldo and his government hoped that the treaty would not be ratified, Philippine independence would be recognized and the United States would sail away or at least stay temporarily to teach us how to establish our own democratic institutions. The US Senate was divided on the issue of taking the Philippines, Cuba and Puerto Rico because it went against their constitution. Thus, US President McKinley downplayed his imperialist policy stating that the Philippines was to undergo "Benevolent Assimilation" under the United States. This entailed an aggressive process of civilization and Christianization that did not take into account the fact that Filipinos were not barbarians and had been predominantly Roman Catholic or Christian for over 300 years before 1898.

History tells us that of the 84 US senators present on that fateful day, 57 voted for ratification of the Treaty of Paris and 27 against. Everything was settled by one vote. This was blamed on the eruption of the Filipino-American War on the evening of Feb. 4, 1899. News was received in Washington shortly before the vote and changed the mind of one senator who was not told that the first shot was fired by an American, not a Filipino. The Philippines seemed a bargain at the time. Sen. Thomas Reed is quoted to have said, "We have bought ten million Malays at $2 a head unpicked and nobody knows what it will cost to pick them." The return on their investment of $20 million was a $300-million war that raged for years.

The other case of one vote making a dent in our history was in late 1898 when the Malolos Constitution was being deliberated by the Malolos Congress. One of the thorny issues debated on was the Separation of Church and State. Contrary to popular belief, Apolinario Mabini suggested that this provision be suspended until the Philippines was fully independent. It was not the Roman Catholic Church that was the issue, it was the retention of the Spanish friars. According to Jose Alejandrino in his memoirs, the vote for the Separation of Church and State was manipulated by Antonio Luna, a member of the so-called radical faction of the Malolos Congress:

"Luna broke the situation with one of those tricks peculiar to his character and which made him famous later. He assembled all those delegates of the radical faction who had confidence in him, advising them to keep away from the sessions of the congress but requesting them to remain within call at a moment's notice. With the radicals absent, the conservatives constituted a majority during the sessions. Having made a careful counting and thinking themselves sure of victory, the conservatives asked for a vote while the few radicals present registered a token opposition. The motion to call a vote was carried. Then at the precise moment of balloting, Luna immediately called all his adherents to enter the session hall en masse to the surprise of the confident conservatives. 'The voting was taken and we won, if I remember right, by one or two votes. In this manner, provision in our constitution for the Separation of Church and State was secured.'"

Felipe Calderon's memoirs states that the adoption of the Malolos Constitution and its amendments were put to a vote that resulted in a tie—25 delegates voted for the proposed constitution and 25 against. The chair abstained and refused to break the tie. Secret balloting was suggested in the ensuing debate but like last Tuesday's open verbal voting, resulted in the adoption of the Malolos Congress by a slim margin of one vote.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@pusit.admu.edu.ph

We were taken for a ride, weren't we?

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

IT looks that way.

Since Dec. 7, we couldn't wait for two o'clock for the impeachment trial. We cancelled appointments and dropped everything to watch what we thought was the Philippines' astonishing demonstration of democracy at work. When we couldn't watch the afternoon proceedings, we slept late just to watch the replay late at night.

"Proud to be a Filipino" was how a colleague even titled his commentary on the trial, pointing out that it is "showing the world that democracy is not powerless to rid itself of graft and corruption and bad hairdo, it is the best instrument for doing so." Indeed, we marveled at how the proceedings were educating our people about the intricacies of democracy's mechanisms, even initiating them into the court's esoteric language.

However, instead of a demonstration of our developed democracy, it merely displayed our political system's biggest, even fatal, weakness: many elected officials' incapacity for transcending personal stakes.

Worse, it turned out to be a case illustrating that uncomplimentary skill Filipinos are said to be experts in: *Magaling magpalusot* (roughly, "skill in getting out of tight spots"). How else could you describe the 11 senators' refrain for suppressing the evidence, that "these are immaterial and irrelevant to the Articles of Impeachment"?

The trial was also a demonstration of another unflattering, allegedly Filipino knack: "*Magaling gumawa ng istorya,*" which roughly translates to adept in undertaking, not just a charade in this case, but a sting. How else would you describe the following episodes in the trial?

· Sen. Nikki Coseteng in November left President Estrada's LAMP party, making us believe that she brings to 11 the number of senators who would be judges without ties to the President.

· Sen. Ramon Revilla on Dec. 23 surprised everyone when he stood up in the trial and declared that he wants to hear the testimony of the prosecution's surprise witness, Equitable PCI Bank executive Clarissa Ocampo. That made us think that great, now we have 12 who would be impartial judges.

· On Dec. 20, none of the pro-Estrada senator-judges objected to Presiding Officer Hilario Davide Jr.'s ruling to open the first "sealed" envelope containing the "Jose Velarde" signature cards.

Our questions:

Did the 11 know *as a group* that the contents of the envelope were harmless to the President, as it wouldn't identify Estrada as "Jose Velarde"? Did they know that that documents were already fabricated, as later disclosed by witness Ocampo, which would instead identify President's buddy Jaime Dichaves as owner of that account?

· On Jan. 16 however, Sen. Francisco Tatad jumped from his seat to call for a vote on whether to open the second envelope. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile quickly seconded his motion. Tatad and Enrile preempted the presiding officer from ruling on the issue. This was despite the Senate's understanding that Davide, the Supreme Court Chief Justice, who therefore was the legal expert, should have first crack at making such a procedural ruling, unless he refers this to a vote of the Senate as a body.

Remember that it was Tatad who, on Dec. 22, rushed to stop a Senate vote on whether to hear the testimony of Ocampo—who was after all a surprise witness, whose appearance therefore was not known by the senator-judges. On Jan. 16 though, everyone knew that the prosecution would be calling for the opening of the second envelope. Tatad and Enrile were supremely confident in calling for a vote. Our questions:

· Was Tatad and Enrile's confidence due to the fact that they knew that the 11 senators agreed to vote "No"?

· Did the 11 senators know the incriminating contents of the second envelope, that they had to suppress its presentation?

No wonder that in November, when there was a groundswell asking for Estrada's resignation, the refrain of the President's supporters, from such a minor Estrada man as Press Undersecretary Mike Toledo to a major one as then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora was: "Let the constitutional process work." That slogan was even bandied about in full-page newspaper advertisements by pro-Estrada groups.

It certainly fooled a lot of people. Even Rep. Wigberto Tañada—who first announced that the prosecution panel has given up the hope that the trial would be an unbiased one—was saying that it was important for the country to undertake the trial, that it was a test of our democracy. Felipe Miranda, president of the pollster Pulse Asia, argued with us that Estrada's resignation will be a "passive thing" that adds nothing to the strengthening of our democratic system.

It wasn't a process. It was a well-planned, well-scripted *telenovela* and we were hooked by it for 23 days. No wonder that Estrada's favorite analogy in his speeches was his movies, where the actor would be beaten up throughout the story, but only to triumph in the end.

Problem is, this isn't the movies, this isn't TV. It wasn't part of the script that the Jan. 16 incident would push the prosecution to resign and throw the country into a constitutional crisis, that it would trigger bigger protests against Estrada.

* * *

Expect more scripts. With the way even one of democracy's most important safety-valve mechanisms, the impeachment trial, was expertly handled as a script, we would tend to believe a text message that has been circulating. Saying that the info comes from a "deep source," the message claims there will be a staged assassination attempt against Estrada and Enrile. It need not be an excuse for martial law. It would be intended, stupidly though, to gain sympathy for the embattled President.

* * *

WE'VE started to understand more why Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago has become such an Estrada stalwart. Her younger brother, Air Force Chief Maj. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, is said to be eyeing the job of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes. Defensor could get it soon, and a little help from his sister won't hurt. And remember that Fidel Ramos has made a path from the chief of staff post, to the office of the defense secretary, to the very seat of power, the presidency.

Reyes would replace as defense secretary Orlando Mercado, who intends to run for a Senate seat in May. General Defensor's rivals are three-star generals now; Army Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Navy Admiral Guillermo Wong, Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos and Southern Command Chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, and of course, the Vice Chief of Staff Jose Calimlim. But they don't have the connections, except for Army Chief General Villanueva, who is said to be backed by Estrada's top cop, Panfilo Lacson. One question that could be important with the volatile political situation is: Will the other ambitious generals decide to stop Defensor, the general, by junking Estrada?

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

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Mourning a fellow Bicolano

LETTERS

AS a fellow Bicolano, I mourn for Sen. Francisco Tatad whose "shameless and distasteful" ploy kept us from knowing the truth in the ongoing impeachment trial. This is the second time that he made our hearts bleed: the first time was when he was the dictator's mouthpiece who buried us with lies and deceit for over 20 years of kleptocracy and plunder. Last Tuesday he was at it again. With his dubious frame of mind, he made the Senate mute and blind so that his new boss who's been accused of fleecing our country may keep himself in power despite the mounting evidence that he betrayed his office beyond our imagination. With people like Tatad roaming the Senate halls, this nation's struggle for truth and freedom should always be kept alive.

Was it not Tatad who told us that Erap Estrada is not fit to be President because of the latter's pernicious repute as an inveterate womanizer and gambler? Thank God, we have Joker Arroyo, another fellow Bicolano.—**JOSE B. PEREZ, 3rd Street, Villa Sorabella, Naga City**

Real issue at bar

THE REFUSAL of the 11 senator-judges to open the envelope containing the evidence of the alleged P3.3-billion bank account of Joseph Estrada was a clear ignorance of the rules of impeachment and a fatal blow on the quest for truth. I respect the political conviction and affiliation of the said senators as much as those on the other side of the fence. However, they missed the real issue at bar, which was whether to open the envelope or not.

The admissibility, materiality or relevancy of the contents of the envelope are different matters or issues, wherein they can raise after opening the same. How can one object to the relevancy or materiality of a document when one has not seen or read it yet? Even the lowly, uneducated Juan dela Cruz can understand this simple issue.

Relative to this, the act of Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta booing, dancing and even making *kantiyaw* after the trial which was caught by TV cameras, shown nationwide and even abroad, was an act unbecoming of a senator. She is a disgrace to Ninoy's name.—**SYLVIA G. REGANIT, 23 Pink St., Dacoville, Dumoy, Davao City**

A higher judge

MY classmates always repeat jokes and discuss current news in school. Do you think it is okay for me to share a passage I found in Jeremiah 17? I am almost 13 years old, you know.

The heart: is more deceitful than all else
And it is desperately sick;
Who can understand it?
I, the Lord, search the heart,
I test the mind,
Even to give to each man according to his ways,
According to the results of his deeds.

As a partridge that hatches eggs which it has not laid,
So is he who makes a fortune, but unjustly,
In the midst of his days it will forsake him,
And in the end he will be a fool.

I think there is a higher judge, your honor.—**SAM ANAIS PINPIN, Miriam College Grade School**

Better

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

HOW long will the rallies last? How long will the bankers, the nuns and priests and the students stop attending to their money, their flock, and their books respectively before deciding they've had enough?

Ernesto Maceda, whom God caused to look the way he does to warn people of what he is, has an answer to that. The Edsa Shrine, he says, would be lucky to gather a hundred thousand souls into its bosom. And even if it did, they wouldn't last for very long. They would eventually disperse and their leaders would come crawling back to Erap seeking accommodation.

Well, for now at least he has to eat his words, which cannot possibly improve his diet. The crowd isn't tapering off, it's swelling by the day. I was there again last Wednesday night, and right in front of the stage no follicle of hair could possibly have fallen to the ground. There was a knot of human bodies everywhere, even in the flyovers, the dark forms dimly illuminated by the sheen from the blinding klieg lights thrown by the television people at the crowd below. Even Juan Ponce Enrile, whose capacity to add and subtract is suspect, would be hard put to put down the size of that crowd. The leaders vow to turn the weekend into a veritable Woodstock. I have no cause to doubt it.

How long will it last?

I don't know. Maybe they won't need to last very long. I've never discounted the element of grace or chance. As I keep saying, what we're seeing today we wouldn't have seen without the sudden change heart of one Chavit Singson who began it all, a dazzling turn of events the cleverest seer could not have predicted. And I've never discounted the trigger-effect of certain events. Who would have thought what began as so ordinary a day (Tuesday) would end up so extraordinary a night? Who would have thought such a tedious debate in the daylight would produce such blazing fireworks in the dark of night? Who would have thought Nene Pimentel's rediscovery of his old self, the one who once fought mightily to end a tyranny, would spark a people to discover their new selves, the one that would rise powerfully to end a farce?

Who knows? The mass of people that daily tumbles into Edsa like a swollen river or rampaging flood is pregnant with possibility. Certainly, you could not have come away from Edsa these past days or nights without being awed by it. And there's no end in sight. Who knows? Maybe the sheer number of the people there would bring not just the traffic in the streets but the traffic in national affairs to a standstill, enough to compel government itself to spit up the one thing that is blocking all movement in the country. Maybe the cries of pain and exultation there would echo in the brains of those who continue to cling to their positions in government, resuscitating conscience or whatever is left of it, sending impulses into their hands to write resignation letters. Maybe the collective lightning and thunder there would reverberate around the world, bringing the international community to raise a collective voice and intone, like Paul Laxalt, "Cut, and cut cleanly."

Or maybe they won't. Maybe Erap's heart has grown callous from loving too many mistresses, maybe his conscience has disappeared in a maze of false identities, maybe his soul has disappeared from clinging to the things of this life rather than preparing for the things that come after. So what? There are other ways to get rid of a tyrant other than by continuously massing in the streets and forcing him to flee. A civil disobedience movement is one of them. It is just as effective as a military intervention, which Gringo Honasan gleefully says is absent from the current exercise of people power. No, it is probably even more so: It makes the removal of the tyrant a true exercise of popular will and not the last-minute heroics of usurpers in arms. It certainly prevents ungrateful wretches, who have been rescued by the people from being made into hamburgers by the tyrant's howitzers, into claiming they are their saviors.

I do not know how long the rallies will last, but I've always thought that was not the real question. I've always thought the real question was how long *we* can last. It is foolish not to believe in grace or chance—this magic-realist country is natural habitat to them—but it is even more foolish to trust solely in them. Luck always favors the prepared, the fastest rewards always go to the patient. Or as Christians always like to say, though the inspiration came from Aesop, God helps those who help themselves. In the end, it is not multitude that will seal the fate of Erap, it is fortitude. In the end, it is not how far the human bodies will go through the length of Edsa, it is how far our spirit will go through the length of the struggle.

But even more than this, so what if the rallies prove to be an irresistible force meeting an immovable object? I said it before and I say it again: The end of people power is not just ousting a tyrant, it is also empowering the people. Even more so in our case. We have always been very good at ousting tyrants, we have never been very good at empowering ourselves. Which is why the tyrants keep coming back. As we like to attribute to Rizal, although the inspiration came from the Enlightenment philosophers or probably way before, there are no tyrants where there are no slaves. There are no Eraps where there are no knaves.

I've always said impeaching Erap was better than Erap resigning. It has proven true, the trial becoming one giant classroom from which the people have learned monumental lessons in law and history, civics and politics. I say now that empowering the people is so much better than ousting a tyrant. Empowering the people alone assures that a tyrant will be ousted and no one will come to take his place. Ousting a tyrant alone assures only that people will sing corny songs about the gift of the Filipino to the world—and wake up to a hangover at the end of the euphoria. That too—empowering the people—is happening even as we speak. The Edsa rallies, the television debates, the ongoing constitutional crisis: They are turning the country into one giant classroom from which we are learning ineluctable lessons in will and power, in truth and justice.

Ernesto Maceda, the ambassador of the Hoofed One, and Gregorio Honasan, the protégé of the Goofed One, say People Power 2 will never be quite like People Power 1. They are right:

It will be better.

THURSDAYS and Fridays for the next few weeks, Conrad de Quiros' column will also appear on this page.—**Ed.**

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that printed copies of Revision Order RO3-2000 (Second Batch) supplement and for reference containing lists of transaction values of goods generally described as:

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January 17, 2001, Manila, Philippines.

FOR THE COMMISSIONER:
(Sgd.) **TITUS B. VILLANUEVA**
Deputy Commissioner
For Assessment and Operations Group

(PDI -- January 19, 2001)

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MESSAGES MESSAGES MESSAGES MESSAGES MESSAGES MESSAGES MESSAGES MESSAGES

I wish to convey my warm congratulations to the graduates of the year 2000 Life Underwriters Training Council (LUTC) program on their conferment of the LUTCF designation and recognition day.

May this momentous event inspire you to move ahead and propagate the noble task of providing a secured future for millions of Filipino families to improve the quality of living in our nation. May you continually work for your clients' realization that securing a life insurance on their lives (and those of their loved ones) is a primary tool in planning to achieve financial soundness, most especially in these times of economic turbulence.

The conferment of your LUTCF designation is a clear affirmation of your dedication and commitment to provide the best service to your clients. May your advocacy for continuing professionalization thru education bring you greater success and achievements.

Congratulations and God's grace be with you all!

Sincerely yours,

Comm. Eduardo C. Malinis
Insurance Commission

I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to the graduates of Life Underwriters Training Council (LUTC) Batch 2000.

This distinction and training couldn't have come at a more opportune time. You will need all the skills, competence and expertise of an LUTC fellow to face the challenges and opportunities of the new millennium. Becoming a fellow of the LUTC means you now possess the highest standards of professionalism and ethical practice, expertise and competence; qualities that will help you reach your goals in the insurance business.

In behalf of the LUTC International Board of Trustees, I congratulate the LUTC graduates of Batch 2000 for this milestone. I wish you success as you work your way in the highly competitive but rewarding field of insurance sales. May you all have a long and fruitful career ahead.

Vicente R. Ayllón
Trustee, LUTC International

Education is one of the most important aspects of an individual's pursuit for success, a legacy that one cherishes throughout his lifetime. This is why LUA-Philippines has, through the years, invested in providing the best insurance education to uplift the professional careers of life underwriters and continues to preserve the highest standards of excellence and ethical practice in the industry.

Thus, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire membership of the Life Underwriters Association of the Philippines, I extend my warmest greetings to the 2000 LUTC graduates, the country's biggest batch of LUTC conferees ever. We acknowledge your hard work - the time, effort and priority you have given to the LUTC Program. Surely, you will reap the fruits of your practice.

On this occasion, we also honor our unsung heroes - the LUTC moderators who dedicatedly volunteered their time and effort, the various CEOs and officers of our graduates' companies, and all those who made the LUTC Program a success. Your invaluable assistance has made our task less difficult and most rewarding.

Again, congratulations!

Remedios A. Armendi, LUTCF
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"To bequeath knowledge is to bequeath immeasurable wealth". Thus, we take pride in our theme for this year's conferment, "Learning... A Legacy". For serious insurance practitioners, continuing education is the lifeblood of a long and fruitful career. This, you have shown as graduates of LUTC.

Your conferment of the designation of LUTC Fellow is both a personal milestone and a beginning --a milestone, for having completed the program after much effort and hard work and a beginning, as you share this knowledge with your clients and with your fellow agents in the field, by word or by example. Yours is the sacrifice, yours is the glory.

Congratulations!!!

Jaime G. Sison
LUTC Director

The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

INDON POLITICS

Generals stage comeback

JAKARTA—The generals are back.

With civilian leaders mired in political infighting and unable to tackle Indonesia's mounting crises, the Army brass—on the defensive since the ouster of the dictatorship it backed for 32 years—is reasserting its dominance in the country's politics.

Some even speculate that Army officers were behind a string of deadly bombings across the country on Christmas Eve, which President Abdurrahman Wahid labeled an attempt to destabilize the government by inciting Muslim-Christian clashes.

With support from lawmakers, Army commanders have blocked Wahid—the country's first elected president in 45 years—from implementing democratic reforms, including asserting civilian supremacy over the armed forces.

"It turns out that Wahid's reforms were an illusion," said Julia Suryakusuma, an Indonesian political analyst. "All they managed to do was to melt the tip of the iceberg, but the rest of it has remained unaffected."

During his decades in power, ex-President Suharto—himself a five-star Army general—used the Army to crush any opposition. In return, it got a free hand to build a commercial empire that reaches into every sector of the economy.

But when Suharto fell amid pro-democracy protests, the Army was on the defensive because of revelations of its widespread human rights abuses and its role in the destruction of East Timor after the province's people voted for independence in a UN referendum.

Early in his administration, Wahid seized on the Army's troubles and appointed the first civilian defense minister in decades. He angered traditionalists by reducing Army dominance over other branches of the military and promoting Navy and Air force officers to top posts previously reserved for Army generals.

He also sacked the powerful security minister, Gen. Wiranto, Suharto's old military chief, on suspicion of involvement in East Timor's destruction, and had the national police removed from the Army chain of command.

But 14 months into his term, Wahid is struggling to maintain his grip on power.

On Wednesday police fired warning shots and tear gas at some 3,000 people demonstrating outside parliament to demand his ouster, and tensions have arisen between Wahid and Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

He has also failed to revive Indonesia's moribund economy or to stem bloody separatist uprisings, and his government is bogged down in political scandals. Critics accuse the president—who is 60 and half-blind—of indecisiveness and erratic behavior.

Amid such uncertainty the generals have begun to claw their way back into the forefront of politics through a loose alliance of anti-reform groups.

According to foreign diplomats—who spoke on condition of anonymity—these include sections of Megawati's political party, Suharto's former ruling party, and some Muslim groups. Possibly illustrating the improving ties, Megawati has started wearing uniforms at military functions. *AP*

A GIFT FOR FOX AP

Mexican President Vicente Fox (center), accompanied by Chiapas Governor Pablo Salazar (left), receives a gift from an indigenous Mexican Indian after the president's arrival in San Cristobal de las Casas in Chiapas, Mexico, Jan. 17.

New blackouts hit California; gov signs order to buy power

SACRAMENTO—Pushed over the brink by its botched experiment with deregulation, California cut off power to hundreds of thousands of people in the first rolling blackouts imposed during its electricity crisis.

In an effort to fend off further blackouts and bankruptcy of the state's two biggest utilities, Gov. Gray Davis late Wednesday night signed an emergency order authorizing the state to buy power.

"The whole purpose of this is a bridge to a long-term solution," Davis said during a late-night news conference.

Several electricity suppliers threatened to call in Southern California Edison's and Pacific Gas and Electric Co.'s debts Thursday unless the state took emergency action to keep power flowing, Davis said.

Davis provided few details about the plan and made no mention of making utilities pay for the power, which could cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars over the next few days and hundreds of millions over the next few weeks.

The rescue plan was being developed as state regulators imposed afternoon outages Wednesday in northern and central California and came within 1,300 megawatts—enough electricity for 1.3 million homes—of ordering the first statewide blackouts since World War II.

"We are trying to manage the picture here today, but we've come to the end of the road here as far as supply within California and out-of-state resources go," said Jim Detmers, managing director of operations for the Independent System Operator, keeper of the state power grid.

Lights blinked off about noon in parts of San Francisco, Sacramento and San Jose, as well as other sections of Silicon Valley.

No major problems were reported, but the outages knocked out TV stations, ATMs and traffic lights across the San Francisco Bay area, backing up traffic and forcing college professors to hold class in dimly lit classrooms. Police officers directed traffic and storeowners turned to pocket calculators.

The rotating, hour-long blackouts in northern and central parts of the state were halted in the afternoon. A second wave of blackouts in the evening was averted as the power supply met demands.

Los Angeles was considered safe because it has its own utility.

Utilities avoided cutting power to essential services such as hospitals and airports. Citing security reasons, they declined to identify exactly which areas lost power.

"If you knew power was out in certain areas, you'd also know that alarms were out and security cameras were out," said Ron Low, spokesperson for PG&E.

ISO officials braced for an even tougher day Thursday.

Suppliers promising the ISO electricity for Thursday were 18,000 megawatts short of what the state will need, not to mention being 9,000 megawatts short on Wednesday, ISO spokesperson Stephanie McCorkle said. *AP*

Sect members detained in China labor camps

BEIJING—In a rare official glimpse into China's use of labor camps to crush the banned Falun Gong sect, a state newspaper reported Thursday that one camp has held at least 470 group followers.

China's government has refused during its 18-month crackdown on the sect to say how many Falun Gong practitioners have been sent to labor camps, but a Hong Kong rights group estimates that at least 10,000 are being held in 300 camps nationwide.

The Legal Daily said the Masanjiazi Education Through Labor Center in northeastern Liaoning province held an award ceremony Wednesday for detained Falun Gong followers, apparently to reward those who had renounced the sect.

The newspaper said 47 Falun Gong followers were granted early release, 86 were allowed to serve out their sentences outside of the camp and 337 had their sentences reduced—making a total of 470 people.

The report did not say how many sect followers in total were in the camp. In an indication the numbers likely exceeded 470, the report said the camp extracted 4,200 letters of repentance and written denunciations of Falun Gong and its US-based leader, Li Hongzhi, from detained sect members. *AP*

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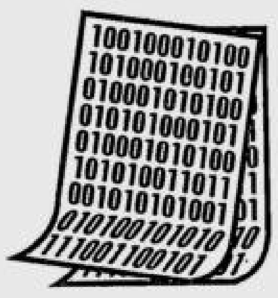

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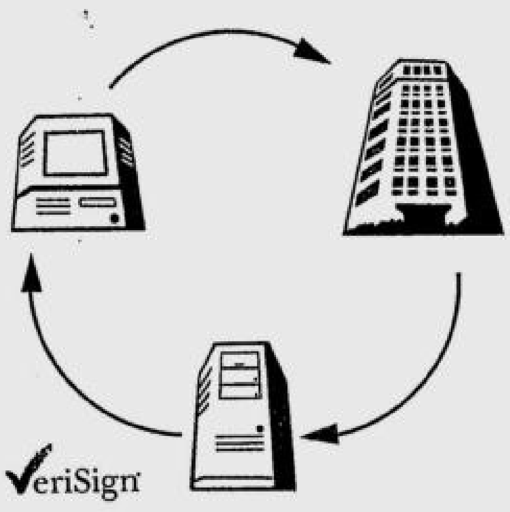

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Powell: New gov't to push for defense against missiles

POWELL

WASHINGTON—Received with all the respect of a folk hero, Colin Powell told the Senate Wednesday at a confirmation hearing that the Bush administration will move full-speed ahead with a US defense against missile attack.

The first black nominated to be secretary of state, Powell said in the process a landmark arms control treaty signed with the Soviet Union in 1972 probably will have to be changed to make way for the controversial and multibillion-dollar futuristic program.

Brushing aside reminders by Sens. Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Lincoln Chafee, both Democrats, that European allies and others are skeptical about the project, the retired four-star general said "when people see something new come along they are terrified, but if it is the right thing to do, you do it anyways."

"In the end of the day, it will benefit the world," he said confidently.

Taking a flat stand on another controversial issue, Powell said the Bush administration would not ask the Senate to ratify a treaty President Clinton signed New Year's Eve to create the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal.

Reflecting concerns in the Pentagon and among congressional Republicans, Clinton said his successor should not ask the Senate to ratify the treaty until the United States was satisfied its personnel abroad would not taken to court in frivolous or politically motivated prosecutions.

The court, supported by human rights advocates around the world, could be set up if 60 nations ratify the treaty. Powell made clear the United States would not be one of them. He told the senators not to "stand on their tippy-toes" waiting for the treaty to be submitted.

Soldiers and other Americans could be faced with prosecution without the protection of their rights under the US Constitution, he said. *AP*

DOUBLE TROUBLE REUTERS

Six-month-old twin girls Kimberley (left) and Belinda are held by Judith Kilshaw, who is at the center of a bitter adoption battle over the twins, Jan. 17. The twins were born in the United States and have allegedly been sold twice over the Internet to the Kilshaw couple and also to Californian Richard and Vickie Allen. The Allens accuse the Kilshaws of not following correct American adoption procedures.

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Israel, PLO pursue talks in Cairo meet

JERUSALEM—Following a surprise meeting in Cairo between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami, both sides were considering the prospects of reaching a new agreement.

Ben-Ami returned home and reported to Prime Minister Ehud Barak early Thursday after the two-hour meeting.

Reporters were kept away from the meeting site. Israel radio said the talks in Cairo were deep and frank but gave no details.

Ben-Ami was already in Cairo Wednesday when Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak suggested that he see Arafat there. After Arafat flew to Cairo, they met at a presidential palace in Cairo.

Palestinian negotiator Ahmed Quriea said the Palestinians were hoping to hear new ideas from the Israelis.

However, hope faded for an agreement before US President Bill Clinton leaves office Jan. 20. Since resuming negotiations a week ago, the two sides have been discussing suggestions Clinton made for overcoming the remaining obstacles before a peace treaty. Clinton has said that when his term is over, his suggestions will be off the table. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, January 19, 2000
2nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Heb 8:6-13**
Gospel: **Mk 3:13-19**

Jesus went up into the hill country and called those he wanted and they came to him. So he appointed twelve to be with him; and he called them apostles. He wanted to send them out to preach, and he gave them authority to drive out demons.

hese are the Twelve: Simon, to whom he gave the name Peter; James, son of Zebedee, and John his brother, to whom he gave the name Boanerges, which means "men of thunder"; Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alpheus, Thaddeus, Simon the Cananean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

January 19 Friday – commentary

Some people work themselves to death because they think that is what being a manager or a leader is about. They have a lot to learn from Jesus who was simply following basic managerial principles when he delegated much of the work to his coworkers so he wouldn't be deprived of the time needed to nurture his vision of the reign of God. False messiahs are really those who make themselves indispensable, whose whole vision and mission goes with them to the grave. Our messiah wasn't even in a hurry to get everything done in his earthly lifetime. He left the rest of the work to the Spirit who in turn animates the Church—the messiah's most ingenious self-reinvention.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS)—***Habeas corpus—Habeas corpus*** is a high prerogative writ which furnishes an extraordinary remedy and may not thus be invoked under normal circumstances but, as the Court of Appeals has so aptly explained, the illegal order and warrant of arrest issued by petitioner Judge subsists and private respondents is offered no speedy, adequate remedy or appeal in the ordinary course of law. The writ of *habeas corpus*, although not designed to interrupt the orderly administration of justice, can be invoked, in fine, by the attendance of a special circumstance that requires immediate action. Such a special circumstance is here present considering that respondent cannot resort to the remedy of a motion to quash, the case no longer being with petitioner judge, and neither could he ask for a reinvestigation because the preliminary investigation for purposes of filing the information has already been taken over by the Provincial Prosecutor. The latter, upon the other hand, does not have the authority to lift the warrant of arrest issued by the disqualified judge. Meantime, respondent is being held and detained under an illegal order and warrant of arrest which has no legal standing. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, Third Division, Calvan v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 140823, October 3, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Congo Cabinet places Kabila's son in charge of country

KINSHASA—Cabinet officials thrust President Laurent Kabila's son into power as head of this vast, deeply troubled African nation's government as conflicting reports circulated over whether Kabila was killed or injured in a palace attack.

Reports that Kabila had died continued to roll in Wednesday. Congolese officials, however, insisted he was wounded but alive when they announced the temporary measures to fill the power vacuum that has threatened to throw Congo into even more turmoil.

"Until President Kabila has recovered, and to ensure stability, the government has decided to give command of the government and military to Maj. Gen. Joseph Kabila," Communications Minister Dominique Sakombi Inongo said after an emergency Cabinet meeting.

The younger Kabila, who already heads the armed forces, was reported to have been injured in the 30 minutes of intense gunfire Tuesday at the presidential residence in Kinshasa. He made no public appearance Wednesday. State-run television broadcast footage of the uniformed major general sitting silently, twisting his beret, but it was not immediately clear when the images were recorded.

Tuesday's shooting and the questions about Kabila's fate have added to the disorder in Congo, a resource-rich nation where a two-and-a-half-year civil war has turned into a regional conflict involving troops from a host of African nations. *AP*

US-based Salvador natives come home

SAN SALVADOR—With relatives homeless and hungry and many villages cut off from the outside world, Salvadorans living in the United States flew home to help bury the dead and rebuild their country after a devastating earthquake that killed nearly 700 people.

More than 1 million Salvadorans—15 percent of the country's population—live in the United States, and many spent harrowing days watching television images of corpses being dug out from landslides with no word from relatives. Telephone lines were either down or jammed with calls, and the airport reopened to only limited flights Sunday.

Fathers—some who hadn't been back for more than a decade—rushed off planes into the arms of weeping children on Wednesday, and peasant families waited in front of the airport for sons to help them rebuild collapsed homes.

Saturday's magnitude-7.6 earthquake killed at least 683 people including six in neighboring Guatemala. The Salvadoran government estimates it caused more than $1 billion in damage, almost half of the small nation's annual budget.

Although more bodies were still being found, many were so mangled by landslides that it was difficult to determine how many had been killed or even recovered. Others will remain buried at the bottom of remote mountain valleys. *AP*

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P100,000	P54,730	P38,177	P30,529	P22,200	P18,109	P15,000

MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

No polls in May, predicts Tañada

TAÑADA

LUCENA CITY—The scheduled elections in May this year may be canceled in the wake of the suspension of President Estrada's impeachment trial, according to Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada.

"There is a possibility that it would not be held as scheduled this May," Tañada said.

"We all don't know what will be the conclusion of… Edsa… because I'm sure that these protest rallies will… and will further complicate the already politically complicated situation."

He added that another reason for the possible postponement of the elections is the Senate's failure to act on the request of the Commission on Elections for additional funding. The request was already approved by the House of Representatives.

Tañada said since Estrada is not likely to resign, street protests are likely to intensify and jeopardize the holding of the elections in May.

"And if that will be the case, the postponement of the election would be most likely," he said.

Tañada said the postponement of the elections is likely to lead to more serious constitutional problems, like what to do with elected officials whose terms of office are to expire in June.

"But if the (current) development would lead to an unhealthy and not conducive atmosphere for the holding of elections, it is better to postpone it," he said.

"I really can't understand the rationale behind the… objection of the defense panel (against the) opening of the envelope. The first one has been opened. The second one has been in the Senate. So what's the fuss all about?" Tañada asked.

He said he suspected that the filing of a motion by Sen. Francisco Tatad to prevent the opening of the envelope and the events that followed it were "pre-arranged."

"Senator Tatad's act is very strange if you compare it with his entire participation in the trial… His motion has created a very serious (problem for) the impeachment trial," he said.

Tatad's act and the voting that followed it appeared to be "scripted," said Tañada.

"If the proceeding is a movie shooting, there is a director outside and inside the court who (directs)… the execution of the scenarios as previously agreed upon. Senator Tatad… filed a motion (and) Senator Enrile dutifully seconded (it). The timing was very dubious," he said.

Tañada expressed disgust over the way Sen. Teresita Aquino-Oreta responded to spectators who were booing and jeering at the 11 senators who voted to keep the controversial envelope sealed.

"Even (her) own family could not help (but) express anger and disgust," he said.

He said the prosecutors in the impeachment trial had no other choice but leave the proceedings and bring their case before the people in the streets.

"We will now bring the case inside and outside of the Batasan," he added.

Tañada expressed belief that if the people become aware of what really happened during the trial, "I'm sure (the number of) protesters (on) Edsa would grow by the thousands and millions."

He said if the 11 senator-judges and the defense lawyers had viewed the second envelope as immaterial and irrelevant, "the second Edsa at this point in time is full of materiality and relevancy."

"And I could not predict what would be the outcome of this Edsa," he said.

Tañada said the House is likely to elect a new set of prosecutors but that this would not take place until the House musters a quorum. The chamber is notorious for absenteeism, said Tanada.

"That (lack of quorum) would hinder the selection of a new panel of prosecutors," he said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ANG SEMIRARA
INDI BASURAHAN!
PPC

TRASH TALK HAZEL VILLA

Opposition to the dumping of Metro Manila trash on Semirara Island is no trash talk for residents of the island and of Antique province who held a rally recently to block plans to turn Semirara into a dump for Metro Manila.

GARBAGE CRISIS

DENR gives tips vs trash dumping

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—The garbage crisis continues to linger in Metro Manila. In recent weeks, incidents of illegal dumping have been rising in Central Luzon, the nearest region to the country's capital. On the other hand, officials in the region have asked residents to be vigilant against illegal dumping.

The Environmental Management Bureau of the regional Department of Environment and Natural Resources has drawn up steps to guide residents on how to stop the dumping of garbage in their backyard.

The EMB said residents should find out if the dumping of garbage is illegal or not. The agency said residents should demand the drivers of dump trucks to present written permits from the municipal government.

If a sanitary landfill is being started in a village, residents should require the project proponent to produce an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) issued by the DENR. To confirm the ECC, residents are advised to call the EMB regional office at numbers (045) 888-0985 and (045) 888-0988.

If the garbage is being dumped in an open or controlled dump, either on public or private land, the municipal government, not the DENR, has regulatory functions over this.

The EMB advises residents to ask those who dump the garbage to produce permits from the municipal government. The residents should not forget to note down details, it added.

Questions that residents should ask: Who is behind the illegal dumping? How many truckloads of trash are disposed of or are planned to be thrown in the village? Who owns the land? How often has illegal dumping taken place in the village?

These bits of information will matter when charges are filed.

The EMB said if it was established that the garbage disposal firm has no permit from the DENR or from the local government, residents should alert the mayor and other local officials about it.

Local officials should send police to the area and arrest those behind the illegal dumping.

When the garbage issue has become politically charged and residents suspect that some local officials might have been behind the incident, the EMB advises residents to call the regional police command at numbers (045) 961-4996 or (045) 961-2980 or the regional Department of Interior and Local Government at (045) 860-5425.

The residents, through their barangay officials, can stop the drivers or representatives of the disposal firm from leaving the village until the local government files charges of illegal dumping.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

NPA commander to testify vs suspected rebs, says Army

CAMP MELCHOR DELA CRUZ, Isabela—A New People's Army commander, who was captured in a firefight last year in Isabela, was asked to testify against a former college editor and her companion who were charged with illegal possession of firearms before a regional trial court in Cabagan town.

Jay-ar Bulosan, alias Ka CJ, unit commander of the Armed Propaganda Unit 3, would support the military's claim that Kerima Lorena Tariman, 21, and Eric Nino Amodo, 17, had guns when they were captured in a gunfight in Barangay Carmencita in Delfin Albano town in May last year, Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, 5th Infantry Division commander, said.

Tariman was former managing editor of the University of the Philippines' Collegian while Amodo was a former Polytechnic University of the Philippines student.

Garcia said he had assured the safety of Bulosan and other captured rebels when they testify in court against Tariman and Amodo.

Bulosan told reporters here he was the unit commander of the Sandatahang Yunit Pamproganda 3 where Tariman and Amodo belong.

He said they were on their way to Barangay Aneg in Delfin Albano to "liquidate a brother of a rebel returnee," when they clashed with a group of Army soldiers.

The returnee's brother was suspected of revealing the activities of NPA rebels in the area to the military.

Bulosan said in a press forum here that Tariman and Amordo were given guns during the gunfight. His claim, however, ran counter to the testimony of an Army soldier who said that he did not see Tariman and Amodo carry guns during the encounter.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Trial keeps Batanes folk glued to TV, radio sets

BASCO, Batanes—Most residents of this northernmost province have assailed the Senate impeachment court's 11-10 vote against the opening of a second Equitable-PCIBank envelope containing documents on the "Jose Velarde" account.

They expressed disgust over the refusal of 11 senator-judges to open sealed documents that the House prosecutors said would prove that President Estrada had amassed P3.3 billion in a secret account.

Ivatans have been closely following the proceedings of the impeachment trial on cable television since it started last month.

Residents interviewed by the INQUIRER concurred with the opinion of resigned Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. that the second envelope should have been opened to settle the question of its contents' relevance in the trial.

Many of them believed that the contents of the second envelope supported the allegation of bank executive Clarissa Ocampo that she saw Mr. Estrada sign the bank document using the name of Jose Velarde.

People's and non-government organizations in this remote province have been demanding the resignation of the President who, they said, has proved himself incapable of effectively running the government.

"Mr. Estrada has lost his moral authority and has betrayed the people's trust and confidence when he got involved in the alleged BW stock manipulation," they said.

Juliet Cataluña, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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Mystery of Pineda location deepens

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Has he returned to the country and is now enjoying obscurity courtesy of a hair transplant in the United States? Or is he now hiding in Australia where he feels safe from the arms of the law?

Reports that suspected "jueteng" financier Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda has returned to his home province of Pampanga have started the rumor mill rolling in Central Luzon where he has reportedly vast jueteng connections.

One report said Pineda, supposedly a key witness to charges that President Estrada took millions of pesos in jueteng payoffs, is sporting a new hairstyle that he acquired through a transplant when he went to Los Angeles before the jueteng payoff scandal heated up last October.

But police officials in the region dismissed the reports as "plain rumors."

"He is still out of the country. *Baka kamukha lang* because he has a new hairstyle," Senior Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Pampanga police director, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Rafanan said he learned on Saturday from Lubao Mayor Lilia Pineda, the suspected jueteng financier's wife that Pineda had moved to Australia in recent weeks.

According to Rafanan, Pineda fled to Australia because he could face possible extradition in the United States. The Philippines has no extradition treaty with Australia, Rafanan explained.

Pineda decided not to return home so he would not muddle the jueteng controversy, he added.

Pineda, whom police tagged as the biggest jueteng operator in Central, Northern and Southern Luzon, was said to have given jueteng money to both President Estrada and Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Reports said Pineda gave hundreds of millions of pesos in campaign funds to the two during the 1998 presidential election.

Rafanan said intelligence operatives who are monitoring Pineda's overseas calls had confirmed that Pineda was indeed still out of the country.

Mayor Pineda, who has avoided media interviews since November, could not be reached for comment. Her secretary said she was monitoring her projects in remote villages in Lubao.

The mayor, during a testimony before the Senate blue ribbon committee, refused to comment when asked if she was a close friend of Macapagal, but admitted that they were acquaintances.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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OUTRAGE FOR THE TRUTH

(A statement of the University of Santo Tomas on the travesty in the Senate)

January 16, 2001 will go down in Philippine history as a bitter day for democracy and the truth. On that day, the majority of our senators, who were supposed to sit as impartial judges in an impeachment court and to ferret out the truth about serious allegations of graft and corruption against President Estrada, set aside all pretensions at probity and voted to muffle the truth. The nation watched in horror as its leaders struck a deathblow to the cause of truth and godly government.

The damage these partisan Senator-Judges has caused to the nation and to the truth is incalculable. It is up to us, the people of God, to repair the damage. We do that by expressing our outrage categorically and vehemently. We condemn the shameless and self-serving scheme of the eleven Senator-Judges. We denounce the President and his minions who have made government a den of malefactors and liars.

But in condemning, we also commend. January 16, 2001 may be a day of infamy, but it is also a day of courage. We commend the ten Senator-Judges who voted bravely for the truth. We particularly commend Senate President Aquilino Pimentel who cast aside political and personal interests to join the people of God in the cause of truth.

We reiterate our earlier call on President Estrada to resign because he has lost the moral legitimacy to govern. We also urge the Senator-Judges who vetoed the truth to reflect, heed the true voice of the Filipino people and repair the damage done. Give truth a chance!

We likewise repeat our appeal to all UST alumni, including those in church service and in government, to withdraw their support from the present administration. We direct this call particularly to Senate Majority Floor Leader Francisco Tatad and former Supreme Court Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, our alumni. We ask them to heed the call of the Church and of the Truth. Heed it now, we appeal to them, and the mercy of God will be theirs. For its part, the University has done what is in its power to show its unwavering support for the truth. In particular, it has notified the Fortun, Narvasa and Salazar Law Office of its decision to terminate its contract for legal services to the University.

We call on Thomasians and all the people of God to stand and be counted. We are all called upon to witness to the truth. Now more than ever, when truth is under assault, we should strike a blow for the cause of democracy and the truth. Let us tell the forces of darkness, "We shall not be silenced, we shall not be fooled, we shall not be cowed. We shall fight for the truth- for as Christ said, 'The truth shall set us free' (John 8:32)."

The University of Santo Tomas

ADVT.

AFP intervention feared

(From page A1)

military groups.

Ramos, who as defense secretary had helped put down repeated military uprisings against Aquino, marched into two military camps on Wednesday on his way to attend an anti-Estrada rally in Edsa.

Mercado has accused Ramos of inciting soldiers to leave their posts and join him.

"If they are waiting for military intervention to lead them to victory, they will be waiting in vain," Mercado said yesterday.

Ramos, speaking in an interview with Singapore-based television network CNBC late Wednesday, pointed out that during his presidency, there was no dissatisfaction among the veteran or retired military community.

"They helped me in the upgrading of the Armed Forces during my time. There were no talks of a coup during my time. Zero, nothing.

"We were all together to rebuild the country step by step," he said.

But now, Ramos said, "the signs are starting to emerge. We blame it on Estrada for not being the role model of a good and effective commander in chief."

Critical mass

Mercado also said the presence of a million people in Edsa would not draw the Armed Forces out of the barracks to force Mr. Estrada to resign.

"Not necessarily," he told reporters. "Because one million is only 1/70th of the entire population."

Mercado said it would be wrong to assume that massing people at Edsa, site of the 1986 People Power revolt, which toppled the Marcos dictatorship, would precipitate a military intervention.

Former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat agreed with Mercado on the point, saying it was not the sheer number of people on the streets alone, which would prompt the military to withdraw its support from the President.

"It's the people's reaction as a whole to what is happening to the country. It's the government's reaction to this reaction by the people," Abat said.

But Mercado argued, "The opposing side can also put another million people at Luneta and claim that this one million also represents the Filipino people."

Fallout of collapsed trial

Mr. Estrada yesterday moved to contain the fallout of the spectacular collapse of his graft trial amid fears that daily street protests could prompt the military to seize power.

Mercado said Mr. Estrada had been "very busy" holding meetings with key advisers as demonstrators vowed to continue daily protests against what they believed was the bent of majority of the senator-judges to acquit the President.

"Our focus has been the role of the Armed Forces and the police," Mercado said over radio station dzRH, adding that Mr. Estrada had given orders that the protesters were to be dealt with "with maximum tolerance."

In Hong Kong on Monday, Ramos had warned of a possible coup attempt should Estrada be cleared of the alleged corruption offenses.

Ramos said he had many friends in the Estrada administration and in the military and police community.

"I enjoy friendship, camaraderie to the extent that I have substantial degree of influence on them. That's the way the military is." ***AFP, with reports from Christine Avendaño, Carlito Pablo, Armand Nocum and Christian V. Esguerra***

1M to march on Palace

(From page A1)

down Ayala Avenue and turned left on Edsa.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and former President Corazon Aquino were among the throng that waited at the shrine.

Sin celebrated a Mass wherein he exhorted the people to remember the martyred Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., San Lorenzo Ruiz, and the Blessed Pedro Calungsod as examples of courage and non-violence.

"The only violence they knew was against themselves," he said.

Sin said Filipinos should emulate Ruiz, and not the President's Filipino-Chinese friends who "are the benefactors of corruption, gambling, and *palakasan*"; Calungsod and Chief Justice Hilario Davide, and not Sen. John Osmeña; Ninoy Aquino, and not his sister Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta.

Deluge of calls

Laguna Gov. Jose Lina, chair of the Kangkong Brigade, said the "March for Truth and Justice" that was to take place today had to be reset on the request of protesters from the provinces.

"We were deluged by calls coming from as far as Northern Luzon, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog telling us that they wanted to join," he said.

Earlier, organizers held a news conference at the Edsa Shrine to announce the march-rally. But at 6:30 p.m., they decided to make an announcement postponing the appointed day to give other provinces time to prepare for the "biggest rally."

According to plans, protesters will trek a 15-kilometer route from the Edsa Shrine on Ortigas Avenue to Mendiola near Malacañang in Manila.

Asked where the one million marchers would come from, Lina said: "We are inspired by the swelling of the crowd. There is enough reason for the public to be outraged. The treacherous act done by the 11 senator-judges in preventing the truth to come out was more than enough reason to elicit a spontaneous reaction from the public."

Lina said that since the daily vigils at the Edsa Shrine began on Tuesday night, the number of the crowd swelled from 200,000 on Wednesday to 250,000 yesterday.

He likened the public outrage over the Jan. 16 11-10 vote of the senator-judges to the assassination of Ninoy Aquino on Aug. 21, 1983.

Verdict

Dinky Soliman, a convenor of Kompil, said the highlight of the march-rally would be the handing down of the verdict on Mr. Estrada based on the two Articles of Impeachment.

She said these articles—bribery and graft and corruption—had been taken up at the impeachment court but the indictment was derailed by the "manipulations" of 11 senators.

"The people's verdict on the two articles: guilty beyond reasonable doubt," protest leaders said.

They said that since Mr. Estrada refused to listen to what the people at the Edsa Shrine had been saying since Tuesday night, they would bring their message to Malacañang itself.

"We will bring our message directly to Mr. Estrada that his time is up. He is now illegitimately occupying the Palace. No criminal should ever rule this country again," Lina said. "This nation is still worth saving, and the Filipino people are worth dying for."

"Don't hide. Come face to face with us. Be accountable to the people," Bayan Muna secretary general Nathanael Santiago said in Filipino.

Teodoro Casiño, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general, said Mr. Estrada was now a "lameduck President" because the people had stripped him of his powers.

Karen Tañada, a Kompil convenor and member of party-list group Abanse Pinay, said the President was stripped of his powers because he "conspired" with the 11 senators to block the opening of the second envelope containing the "Jose Velarde" accounts.

"We will make Mr. Estrada pay for his crimes," Tañada said.

"The truth was killed in the Senate. 'People Power II' will prevent another gangster from ruling this country," said Ronald Llamas of Kompil.

Aunor

Actress Nora Aunor, a close friend of the President's who announced her defection to the opposition yesterday, urged pro-Estrada groups and the police to let the marchers pass.

"I am pleading to the pro-Estrada group whose members, I believe, are my fans, to allow us to get past the barricades. I also exhort you to join us, instead. *Huwag na kayong magpabola kay* (Stop being fooled by) Erap," Aunor said.

Soliman said protesters would not abandon the Edsa Shrine.

She said that the shrine would serve as the protesters' general headquarters and base of operations, and that the daily 24-hour vigils, anti-Estrada concerts and rallies, and Masses officiated by Sin would continue.

Soliman said the march was intended to show the President that the Filipino people had spoken, and that their message was he should vacate his post now.

On the day of the march, simultaneous rallies will be held in other urban centers in Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Bacolod, General Santos and Baguio cities, and Central, Southern and Northern Luzon and Southern Tagalog.

Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon) said Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson should clear all routes leading to the capital to allow people from the provinces to participate in the daily vigils at Edsa Shrine.

Zubiri said Richard Gordon, former chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, had complained that policemen in San Fernando, Pampanga, escorted back to Bataan buses carrying Zambales folk who were on their way to the shrine.

According to the lawmaker, this was in contrast to the VIP treatment given Mr. Estrada's supporters in the Nov. 11, 2000, prayer rally organized by Malacañang, "where people bused by pro-Erap politicians even got police escorts."

Still in black

In Makati, workers mostly clad in mourning black poured into Ayala shouting "Erap Resign!"

They held up "Erap Guilty" posters and flashed the now-familiar thumbs-down sign at passing motorists.

The workers also expressed extreme displeasure at the 11 senators who voted against the opening of the "Jose Velarde" documents, particularly Aquino-Oreta, John Osmeña, Robert Jaworski and Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Vivian Yuchengco of the Philippine Stock Exchange said the workers at the bourse and other offices would continue their protest actions "until Estrada steps down."

At the Ninoy Aquino monument at around 6 p.m., Paul Aquino and Maur Aquino-Lichauco, brother and sister of Ninoy and Aquino-Oreta, led a small candle-lighting ceremony.

At about the same time, protesters said a one-minute prayer at the "prayer stations" located in strategic areas of the human chain.

The two Aquinos lighted the first of the candles symbolizing the search for truth given the impeachment court's decision not to open the crucial documents.

Paul Aquino criticized his sister for voting against opening the documents and "dancing" in celebration afterward.

"That was very unsenatorial. I don't blame people for lambasting her," he said of the latter. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora, Alcuin Papa, Volt Contreras and Nelson Flores***

Stocks, peso continue to fall

(From page A1)

tual Fund Management Co. of the Philippines, said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 1.4 percent to 1,438.21, but only a fraction of Wednesday's 6-percent slump which was the biggest single-day percentage decline since Sept. 18, 1998.

The peso closed at 54.790 compared with 54.62 the previous day. The peso at one point hit 55.25 on Thursday, but not as spectacular as the plunge to the all-time low of 55.75 on Wednesday.

Traders said that President Estrada's insistence to cling on to power despite deafening calls for his ouster would keep the country's financial markets on edge.

Speculation also swirled Thursday about a popular uprising or a military coup.

Cruz said the likelihood of a drawn-out period of political uncertainty had risen markedly after the Senate impeachment trial of Mr. Estrada was suspended indefinitely.

"Investors, especially foreign investors, have remained skeptical about entering the market," Wise Securities economist Jose Vistan said.

Other traders said the pullback of investors reflected the outrage, particularly by the business community, over the Senate vote to bar prosecutors access to bank documents on Mr. Estrada's alleged P3.3-billion secret account at Equitable PCI Bank.

"With people staying out in the streets, it is difficult to predict what will happen in the stock market," Vistan said.

He added the market might weaken further in the coming sessions, with the index eventually heading toward its 1,380-point support.

Radical streak

In the face of all the political uncertainly, business executives and traders in pressed suits are showing an uncharacteristic radical streak as they clamor for Mr. Estrada's departure.

Corporations are providing food to thousands of demonstrators in anti-Estrada rallies.

Traders have put "Estrada resign" signs on computer terminals and staged their own protests. Some displayed thumbs-down gestures for Mr. Estrada, while others clanged empty cola cans together inside the stock exchange on Thursday.

"They're radical in defense of their own interests," said Simon Flint, a currency strategist who follows the Philippines for Bank of America in Singapore.

"They don't want change as such. These people just want a better economic environment so they can make more money."

Flint said he didn't believe the opposition would be able to remove Mr. Estrada from office after the controversial Senate vote on Tuesday night.

Flint said the military would likely stay out of the fray.

He suggested business leaders might need at some point to consider rebuilding their bridges to the Estrada administration through some figures who appear sensible, such as Finance Secretary Jose Pardo.

"Why can't they reach an accommodation?" Flint asked.

Big Business

Maybe Big Business doesn't want to, according to other analysts.

"I don't believe there will be any reconciliation with the President, except for the people who are with him now and need favors to stay in business," said Guillermo Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club.

Luz said few Filipinos wanted to see the military get involved, but he added that Mr. Estrada had lost the ability to command support.

"Our Constitution calls on the military to protect the people," Luz said. "They must be asking themselves some questions about how this can be happening under our Constitution and people are getting away with it.

"There seems to be a justified case for people, not just the military but people in government, withdrawing their services from the President. We don't understand how any of the Cabinet secretaries can continue to be an accessory to this problem."

Top government economic officials have acknowledged that they have been under pressure to leave.

To local business consultant Michael Alan Hamlin, however, Mr. Estrada is finished and has no realistic alternative beyond resignation—with the main question being when and how.

"Government is already in a state of paralysis," Hamlin said.

"Its capacity to fulfill its obligations is almost completely compromised due to the insistence of a fatally wounded president to stay in power." ***Reports from Clarissa S. Batino, AP, AFP, Reuters***

Metro street gangs join pro-Erap rallies

(From page A1)

supporters in their continuing rally at the Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge near Malacañang.

The gang and frat members, who come from Tondo and Pandacan in Manila and depressed areas in the metropolis, will serve as front-liners should clashes between the pros and antis take place.

They are easily recognized by tattoos on the upper arm or back, body piercings, accessories such as bracelets and rings, and dyed or unusually cut hair.

Most of them are out of school or are unemployed and single, and are reportedly eager to join pro-Estrada rallies.

The frat members are reportedly "excellent" in recruiting their friends.

According to a Tondo *barangay tanod* who requested anonymity, the frat members act like "volunteer informal policemen" during rallies.

He said the youths were not hired as groups. Individual members tag along with other pros from their communities and "reunite" with their colleagues at the rally sites.

The gang members are deployed around the pro-Estrada assembly to watch for infiltrators, the *tanod* said. If necessary, they will drive away antis attempting to dislodge the pros from the bridge.

The frat members are supplied placards mounted on sticks, which can be used as clubs. They are expected to use their fists during confrontations.

One took place around noon yesterday, when the pros chased away antis from the University of the East.

Leaders of the pros have vowed not to yield the bridge to the antis, who are planning a march on Mendiola as part of "People Power II." *(See story on Page A1.)*

The *tanod* said he was not sure if the organizers of the pro rallies knew about the gangs and frats.

"I think it's better that their idle time is put to good use," he said. "I'd rather see them here, where I can watch over them, than at home engaging in brawls, petty crimes and trouble-making."

A problem arises when members of rival gangs arrive at the same time and clash upon sighting each other, the *tanod* said.

He said police knew about the presence of the gang and frat members, as surprise inspections sometimes resulted in the confiscation of solvents, liquor and bladed objects from them.

Occasionally, watches and cell phones believed snatched from pedestrians in the University Belt are discovered.

Kasambayan

No, Mr. Estrada is not lacking in defenders.

Kasambayan, a newly formed alliance of people's organizations, accused the antis, particularly the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil) II and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, of causing the fall of the peso against the dollar, and announced plans to hold their own mass actions to express support for the embattled President.

Kasambayan also assailed Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, and the Makati Business Club, saying the peso plunged to P55:$1 after they called on the people to assemble at the Edsa Shrine.

It said that the walkout at the Philippine Stock Exchange also caused the price index to plunge further.

"This is a clear sign of economic sabotage," said Kasambayan spokesperson Nilo Tamoria.

He added: "We are dismayed by these very people who are part of the rich few but who continue to march in the streets pretending to be clean and moral, and announcing to the whole world that the people have lost confidence in the President."

Tamoria said the forces seeking Mr. Estrada's resignation "are so desperate that they are willing to hurt their own businesses if only to sow divisiveness among freedom-loving Filipinos."

"But the downside to this is that the poor masses are the ones bearing the crunch of the crisis," he said, adding that the rich "could afford to attend rallies at the spur of the moment because unlike the poor, they are not living a hand-to-mouth existence."

Tamoria called on both senator-judges and prosecutors to complete the impeachment trial.

He said that under the Constitution, they were duty-bound to do so.

Not sleepless

And the President is not losing sleep over the "People Power II" rallies at Edsa and other parts of the country.

Asked by the INQUIRER in a phone interview whether the rallies had given Mr. Estrada sleepless nights, acting Press Secretary Michael Toledo said: "No. None that I know of."

"In fact, he was up and about this morning. He started his day with a breakfast meeting," Toledo said.

Toledo admitted that Malacañang was a-buzz with meetings from dawn to way past midnight.

He said the President was being kept "very, very busy" by visitors as well as phone calls from both government officials and personal friends.

Toledo said the meetings had less to do with the anti-Estrada rallies than with the President's efforts to give "personal attention" to the delivery of basic services to the people.

"They can rally as much as they want, but they cannot stop me from running the government," Toledo quoted Mr. Estrada as saying.

He said the President had ordered his Cabinet officials not to be "distracted" by the nationwide anti-Estrada rallies.

Toledo admitted that "in some ways," the impeachment trial and the rallies had been affecting the President—but not so gravely as to require a formal statement from him.

Asked why Mr. Estrada had not made a formal appearance to allay the people's fears, Toledo said: "There is no special reason to do so." ***With reports from Norman Bordadora and Armand Nocum***

Democratic institutions seriously wounded

(From page A1)

With no specific constituencies or interests to look out for, the framers of the Constitution believed the senators are in the best position to receive, evaluate and pass upon the evidence that may be presented against an impeachable public official.

No other institution in government has been accorded the authority to determine with finality and on the basis of its own rules the fitness of the President, Vice President, members of the Supreme Court, members of constitutional commissions and the Ombudsman to remain in office.

With a rich and colorful history behind it, dating back to the Commonwealth period, the Senate had been described as the "training ground of the presidency." Its members enjoyed a reputation for integrity, patriotism and intellectual competence.

Those were the days when only the best and the brightest, or the crème de la crème, of the Filipino nation were given the privilege to grace its halls. With the way things have shaped up in the present Senate, many of those "*señor y señoras diputados*" must be turning in their graves.

Lame leadership

The Senate leadership was badly hurt by the rejection of the prosecution's bid to open the second Equitable PCI Bank envelope.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. was forced to resign his post when, in spite of his not-so-subtle hints about the need to see the bank documents in question, majority of his peers voted against his position on the issue. He felt he lost the moral authority to lead the Senate when most of its members took a stand different from what he strongly believed in.

Noticeably, Pimentel did not resign irrevocably. He made his resignation effective only after his replacement is chosen. There are no indications that the 11 senators who took issue with him on the disclosure of the bank documents are seriously looking for a replacement. In fact, most of them are asking him to stay put.

Had Pimentel quit his post without any pre-conditions, the Senate leadership would have automatically passed to the president pro tempore, Sen. Blas Ople.

Neither here nor there

Some questions have been raised about Pimentel's qualified resignation. Did he entertain reservations about the ability of Ople to lead the Senate during the impeachment trial? Was Pimentel apprehensive that, in the light of Ople's open support for President Estrada, he (Ople) does not have the objectivity and balance needed to maintain the credibility of the trial?

Or, was Pimentel's dramatic, but conditional, resignation made to play to the gallery without any intention of becoming effective? Pimentel was certainly aware that the 11 senators were two sen[illegible] of e[illegible]ting his successor and therefore he has to stay on the job until the requisite 13 votes are gathered?

With the equivocal resignation, the Senate leadership is neither here nor there. It has a leader who does not want to lead but has made it difficult for his logical successor to take over. It has a leader who has been elected by his peers to lead them, but at the same time did not support him on an issue of national significance.

Until it is able to definitively resolve its leadership problem, the Senate will be perceived by the public as a wounded institution. It cannot provide the moral leadership the people hunger for at a time when the President's fitness to govern has been put in serious doubt by the trial.

With the impasse in Senate leadership and public indignation still high over the refusal of the majority of the senators to determine the truth behind the President's billion-peso bank deposits, the erstwhile high credibility rating of the Senate has sunk to an unprecedented low.

The first ever impeachment trial in the country has grounded to a halt.

Barring any procedural maneuvers, the trial cannot resume until the House of Representatives informs the impeachment court of its action on the request of the original prosecution team to withdraw from the case.

Davide factor

Those asking for Davide's withdrawal as presiding officer believe he should not allow his personal prestige and that of the lofty office he holds to give credence and legitimacy to what appears to be a concerted effort by some senators to clear the President's name at all costs.

Unless he resigns or retires as the highest magistrate of the land, Davide is the only person authorized by the Constitution to preside over the impeachment trial. No one can substitute or replace him as long as he is the chief justice.

In the unlikely event that Davide gives up the task of presiding officer of the court without shedding his status as chief justice, the impeachment trial will collapse. Anybody who substitutes for him will be considered an intruder and the proceedings he participates in shall be null and void.

Considering Davide's dedication to duty and his legendary integrity, the probability of his following in the footsteps of the prosecution team is, mercifully, zero. He can be expected to stay on the job until it is over or he drops dead, whichever comes first.

Crisis of confidence

The biggest casualty in the stalemate caused by the refusal of 11 senators to open the second Equitable PCI Bank envelope is the public's confidence in the integrity of the process provided for in the Constitution to make the President accountable for his actions.

While the trial was in progress, the public gave the impeachment process the benefit of the doubt. Many had reservations about the ability of the senators to render impartial justice to the people who filed the charges against President Estrada. But at the same time they felt the Senate was entitled to some degree of faith and confidence.

It was democracy in action. The highest official of the land was made subject to the majesty of the law like any other citizen of the country. The cleansing process provided for in the Constitution was in motion.

Everybody was looking forward to the day when the President is able to present his evidence, personally or through others, and the case submitted to the senators for their judgment.

But the people's expectations were shattered when 11 senators voted not to disclose the documents of an envelope that may have shown the President's ownership of a P3.3-billion account.

The ability of the senators to render impartial justice became suspect. If the prosecution's allegedly most damaging evidence against the President can be suppressed by sheer force of number, then it is not far-fetched to assume that the President's men and women in the Senate have ceased to be impartial arbiters.

By voting no to the disclosure of the contents of the second envelope, they had given notice that they are prepared to use their numerical superiority to prevent the truth from coming out using a legal technicality to justify their action.

As a consequence, many lost faith in the impeachment process. They ceased to appreciate it as a credible and trustworthy procedure to make the highest official of the land accountable for his mistakes.

Failure of institutions

The system that many thought would ensure good governance and honest accountability did not live up to their expectations. It was capable of manipulation. It had become a sham.

Dissatisfied and disgruntled by the failure of the democratic process, the people have decided to take to the streets to express their sentiments about the way things turned out.

The demonstrations, noise barrages, prayer rallies and other forms of mass actions are the people's way of saying to the national leadership that the institutions they represent have failed to live up to the purpose for which they were created.

The impeachment process had not provided them the relief from a President who has lost the moral authority to govern. They are now seeking redress outside the perimeters of what they believe have become discredited institutions.

The trial of the President does not appear to be getting anywhere. And so are the nation's economy and the people's morale.

Restoring the people's faith in the impeachment process should be the first order of the day in case the trial resumes, if ever. Unless the fast-breaking developments on Edsa overtake it.

Nora dumps Erap: 'He beats people'

(From page A1)

ing, "that was a long time ago. I've tried to forget about it."

"I believe all the charges against (Mr. Estrada) are true. Even that Jose Velarde, signature, it is his. I can vouch for that," Aunor said at a press conference yesterday morning, explaining later that she had seen the President's real signature many times over many years.

Wearing a white T-shirt emblazoned with the word "Resign," she yesterday said that she decided to come out against the President after 11 senator-judges in the impeachment trial succeeded in blocking the admission of evidence relating to the charge that the leader made billions off corruption.

"I have long wanted to do this. I should have done this a long time ago. They've abused (*binaboy*) the impeachment process," Aunor said at the press conference at the office of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Quezon City.

"After what they (pro-Estrada senators) did at the impeachment trial and especially after seeing Senators (Aquilino) Pimentel and (Franklin) Drilon cry, I told myself, this is it, I have had enough," she said.

A perceived solid ally who was one of the biggest crowd drawers during Mr. Estrada's presidential campaign in 1998, Aunor was reportedly hurt when he refused to endorse her as his party's candidate for governor in Camarines Sur for this May's elections.

But Aunor denied politics had anything to do with her decision, adding that she had not yet made up her mind whether to run as governor in her home province.

She also insisted that nobody asked her to come out and that the decision was hers alone.

"We cannot belittle her decision," said KMU chair Beltran. "We know how hard it is for her especially because she is very close to the President."

'Open your eyes'

She said yesterday that as one of Mr. Estrada's oldest and closest friends, she was extremely familiar with his character, and believed that he did not deserve to lead the country any longer.

"I want to tell the people especially those who are defending President Estrada, open your eyes, enough is enough. Stop supporting him and join us in removing him from Malacañang," Aunor said.

She said she knew the President would be surprised by her move, but expressed the hope that he would respect her decision.

"Please Mr. President, for your own good and for the good of the country, step down," Aunor pleaded.

The diminutive singer gamely clenched her fist along with veteran activists like Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna and Crispin Beltran of the Kilusang Mayo Uno.

Big blow

Oppositionists immediately interpreted Aunor's unexpected but welcome move as a sure sign that Mr. Estrada was losing and would continue to lose the support of the lower classes. "La Aunor" claims fiercely loyal fan clubs of "Noranians" nationwide.

Her decision to join the anti-Estrada camp was a "big blow" on the heels of other "defections" of show biz friends of the President like Gov. Bong Revilla ***(see related story in Metro, Page A23)***, said former House Speaker Manuel Villar.

"Governor Revilla and Nora Aunor have thousands, even millions of supporters coming from the masses who, I'm sure, will follow whatever position they take," he said.

"What makes these defections doubly significant is that this involves people who are very close to the President," the Las Piñas congressman said.

'Respect women'

To the President, Aunor had this to say: "Erap, may you learn to respect women even when you are no longer President."

Later, Aunor addressed a mammoth crowd that gathered in front of the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong.

"Mr. President, if you still refuse to step down we will not leave this place," Aunor said. She told the crowd that she had been supporting the President "because I believed that he would help the Filipino people, but he wasn't able to keep any of his promises."

She appealed to pro-Estrada groups to change their stance, saying: "Let us not act blind and deaf any longer."

Noranians quickly gathered around the actress after she left the stage.

New fan, old fan

One wealthy-looking matron cheered and clapped her hands as Aunor passed by. "Nora, we will pray for you. Hooray for Nora," the newly converted fan cheered.

In Lucena City, Titin Lim, a self-confessed die-hard Noranian, was distraught.

"Oh my God! If the report that Ms Nora Aunor really suffered some beatings from President Estrada is true, what kind of President do we have?" said Lim, who works part-time for an environmental nongovernment organization.

"For these reasons alone, President Estrada deserves to be kicked out from his position. With the disclosure of our idol, the million votes that we all gave him during the last election, courtesy of Ms Aunor, (will no longer go to) his candidates come election time."

Hotline

Even when she was sick, Aunor accompanied Mr. Estrada on his presidential campaign, to every corner of the country, even to the most remote barrios, according to a show biz source.

Aunor was romantically linked to Mr. Estrada after they made "Erap is My Guy." They also made another movie together titled "Bakya Mo Neneng."

Aunor's house in Balete Drive, Quezon City, is said to be a gift from Mr. Estrada after she campaigned for him when he ran for vice president. The house is right beside the controversial "Boracay" mansion reported to have been acquired by the President through a network of cronies.

Whenever Mr. Estrada or Aunor needed favors from each other, they would call each other on a private hotline, according to the source.

Another source claimed that the actress had been dependent on the President for financial help until recently, when she was reportedly paid $15,000-$20,000 per show during a recent US tour. She did an average of four shows every weekend in the last quarter of 2000.

Last year, Aunor starred in "Sidhi," a production of Millennium Films, owned by Jinggoy Estrada.

Aunor's show biz "rival," Vilma Santos, withdrew support from Mr. Estrada late last year, when her husband, Batangas Rep. Ralph Recto, bolted from the administration party. ***With reports from Cathy C. Yamsuan, Leah Salterio; and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Opposition picks Guy for governor

NAGA CITY—The united opposition in Camarines Sur has chosen superstar Nora Aunor as its gubernatorial candidate against incumbent Gov. Luis Villafuerte.

In a straw vote held at Tigaon town on Tuesday, Aunor won over Naga City Mayor Sulpicio Roco Jr., younger brother of Sen. Raul Roco.

The united opposition in Camarines Sur is composed of a tactical alliance of Aksyon Demokratiko, Lakas-NUCD and the Nationalist People's Coalition.

Villafuerte belongs to the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, which Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara heads.

He will be running for governor for his third and last term. ***Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

President . . .

(From page A1)

at parang pakawala sa ginawa niya," spat an angry Restituta Jalipo, 48, of Tondo, Manila.

But Estrada supporter Kits Flores was more circumspect. "We are saddened by her decision especially since she is so close to the President, but have no choice except to respect it," said Flores, an official of Katipunan ng Sambayanan.

The President "said that all that Aunor said was untrue," including her allegation that Mr. Estrada beat his women, Toledo told reporters.

Toledo said the actress had an "ax to grind" with Mr. Estrada, who had refused to back her as a candidate for Camarines Sur governor in the upcoming elections.

"She has no evidence to prove her claim. You know, it seems it's a season for Erap bashing," Toledo told reporters.

Toledo said that the President viewed the experience as "very revealing and enlightening."

"The people you have considered friends, the people you have had special relationships with in the past, can come out in the open and say things, damaging not only to (you) personally but to the institution of the presidency," Toledo said, explaining the President's reaction.

"And worse, the things that are said are untrue," he added.

Toledo also said that the Palace did not view Aunor's turnaround as a "strategic setback."

While contending that Aunor's public denunciation of the President was politically motivated, he also suggested that the falling out might be purely personal.

"They probably had a misunderstanding. Maybe the President did not agree with her on something, maybe a favor was asked of him and he turned it down," he said.

Toledo reiterated that the President is "definitely not resigning—not ever."

Like Chavit

Mr. Estrada himself continued to stay out of the public eye, leaving Palace officials to defend him against Aunor's allegations, including her claim that the signature "Jose Velarde" was his.

The only official function the President attended yesterday was one with foreign investors whom he tried to convince to continue investing in the country.

Toledo likened Aunor to Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who was also a close friend of the President before he went public with allegations that Mr. Estrada took bribes from "jueteng" lords. "With Aunor, it was the same. There were requests made. (They) were political in nature. Aunor wanted to run for governor in Camarines Sur. Unfortunately, the President felt that it would be best that somebody else would run for that particular post," he said.

It was rumored that the President would support Luis Villafuerte as LAMP candidate for governor of the province.

"Ms Aunor seems to be disappointed about this and could not accept the decision of the President. The sad thing is that her disappointment had to take the form of false accusations against the President, especially when there is an ongoing impeachment trial," Toledo said.

'Traitor'

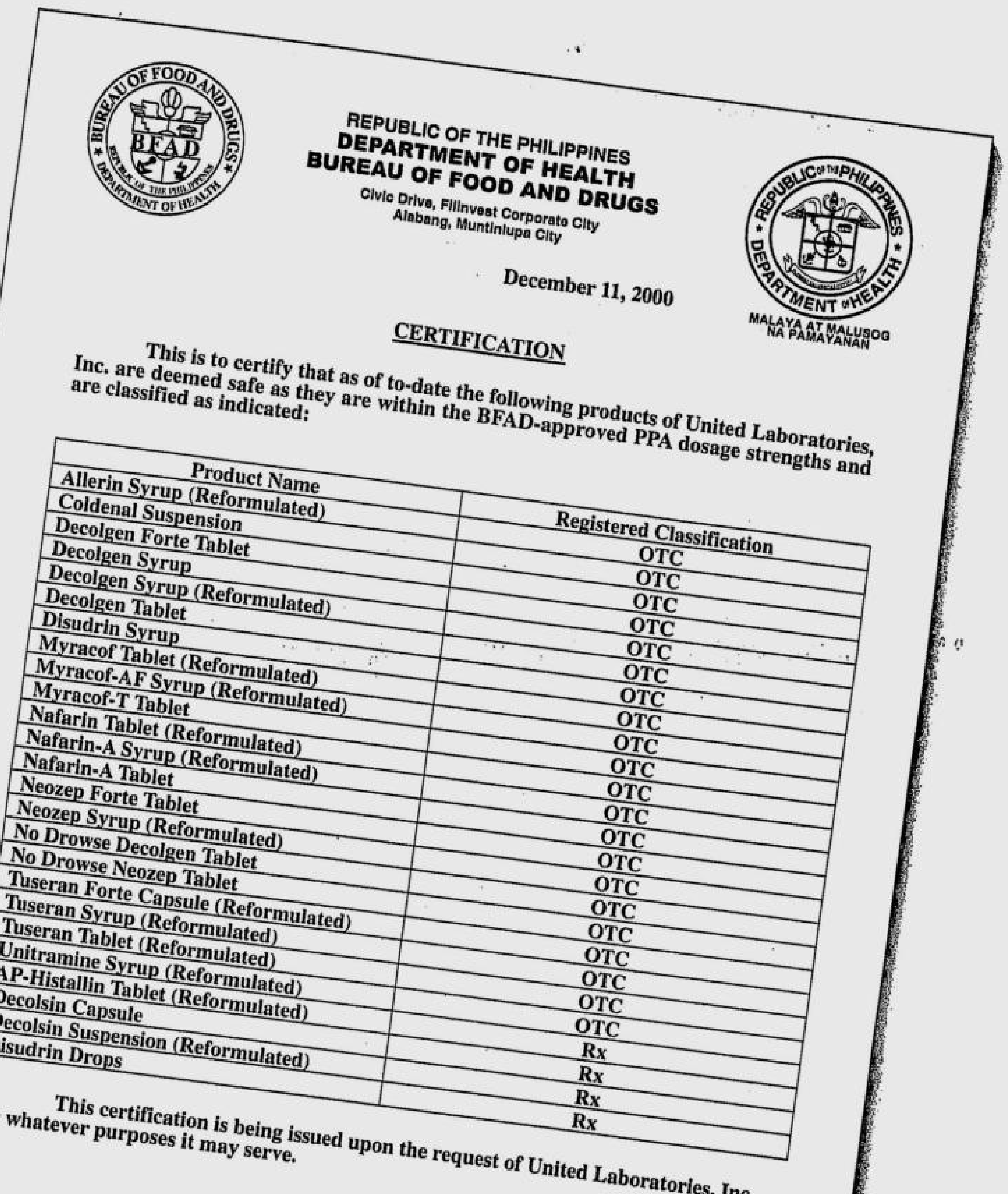
Asked about Cavite Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.'s presence at the anti-Estrada rallies, Toledo also said that the governor was politically motivated.

"Look at the political landscape in Cavite. Know who the power brokers are, the political families there. And then you can draw your conclusion as to why (Revilla spoke out in the Edsa rally)," Toledo said.

Questioned on the President's reaction to the invitation of the anti-Estrada forces for Fernando Poe Jr. to join them, Toledo said that the demonstrators could call on anyone.

But, at Mendiola, Rudy Ramos, 47, an overseas contract worker was unforgiving of disloyal friends.

Aunor "is a traitor to the entertainment industry which has been solid behind the President," Ramos said. ***With reports from Jerome Aning; AFP***



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
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MALAYA AT MALUSOG NA PAMAYANAN

December 11, 2000

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Decolgen Syrup	OTC
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Decolgen Tablet	OTC
Disudrin Syrup	OTC
Myracof Tablet (Reformulated)	OTC
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Nafarin Tablet (Reformulated)	OTC
Nafarin-A Syrup (Reformulated)	OTC
Nafarin-A Tablet	OTC
Neozep Forte Tablet	OTC
Neozep Syrup (Reformulated)	OTC
No Drowse Decolgen Tablet	OTC
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P80-M MAN

Duremdes joins Alaska practice

'Not a good start for Chairman Yenko'

By Marc Anthony Reyes

KENNETH Duremdes showed up at Alaska practice yesterday, ready to take on his role as franchise player for the next eight years and happy with the deal that would enrich him by about P80 million.

The centerpiece of the bonanza is the P500,000 monthly pay which is subject to adjustment once the PBA decides to increase the maximum salary.

And part of the windfall are game and by-phase bonuses like a quarterfinal bonus worth P250,000 aside from two business class tickets to the United States, a semifinal bonus of P500,000 and a championship bonus of P750,000.

If Alaska wins a conference title, Duremdes stands to get P1 million and another P1 million for every MVP award. He will also get P20,000 per won-game in elimination during the first three years of the deal.

Bonus rates

The bonus rates for every won-game will rise to P25,000 in the following three years and will reach P30,000 in the last two years of the contract. There will also be graduating bonuses for won-games in the quarterfinals, semifinals and finals.

If Duremdes, the 1998 MVP and many-time Mythical team member, makes the Mythical Five, he'll get P500,000. Mythical 10 and Defensive Team stints are worth P250,000 each.

Best Player of the conference award would mean P500,000 aside from a Toyota luxury car or P1.5 million cash, whichever is the higher item in the deal.

In the original Mobiline offer sheet, Duremdes can also get P5,000 monthly cell phone bill subsidy, 16 tickets every game and allowances per game, practice and out-of-town game.

Separate bonus

But the PBA decided that the package be included in Duremdes' P500,000 monthly salary.

"Even if the PBA approves it as a separate bonus for Kenneth, we would have matched it," said Alaska team manager Joaqui Trillo. "But we would insist that his cell phone line must be Globe."

Trillo said Duremdes brought electricity in the team practice, while he admitted that the Aces didn't take well Mobiline's mega-buck offer sheet to Duremdes.

Alaska team owner Wilfred Uytengsu expressed disappointment when Mobiline owner Iggy Yenko failed to call him up about the offer sheet, according to Trillo.

Yenko, who is also the newly elected PBA board chair, earlier said that the Phone Pals won't tender an offer sheet.

'Not a good way'

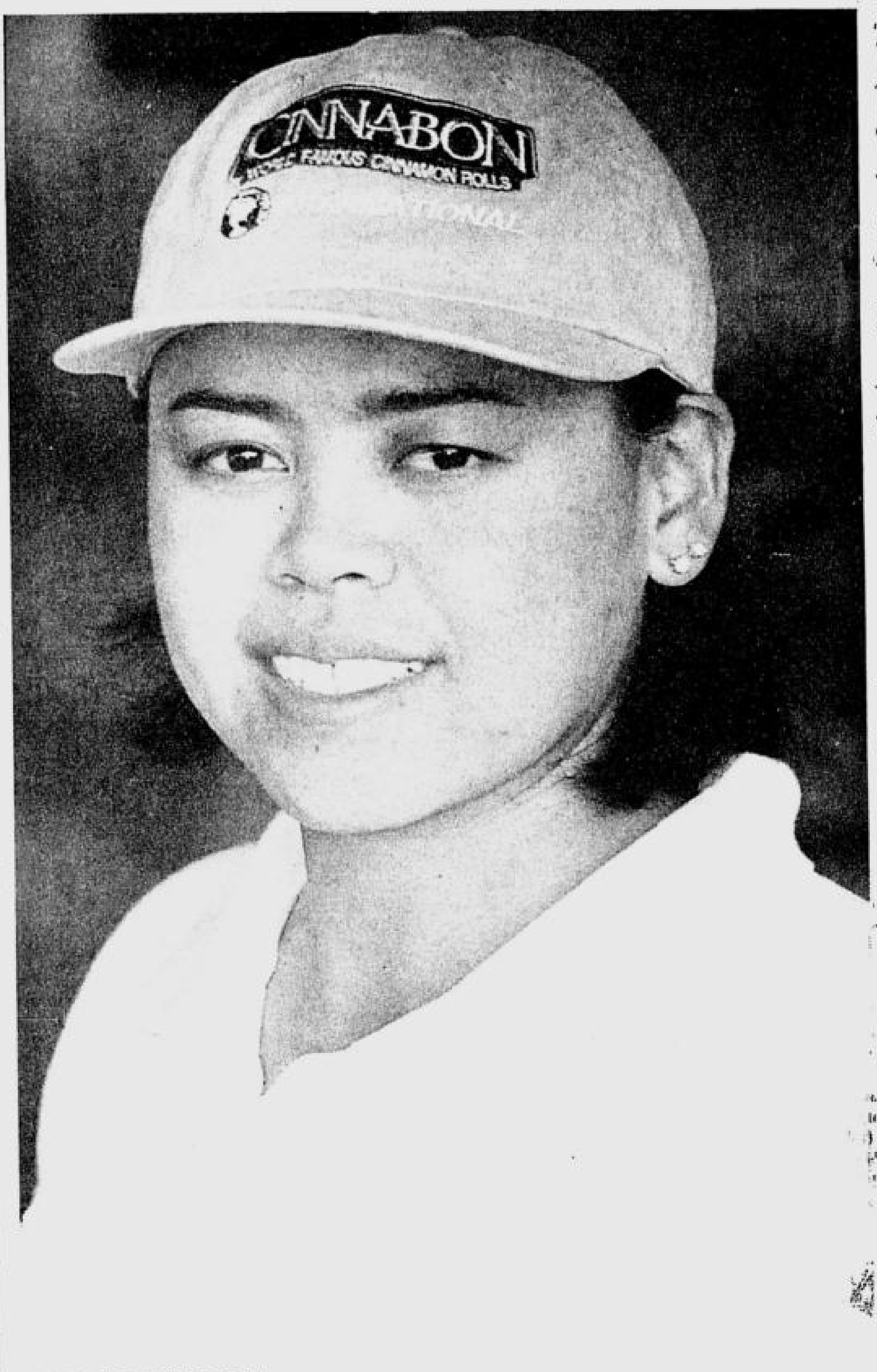
Trillo quoted Uytengsu as saying that "this was not a good way for the new chair to start the year off and that he's not leading by example."

He added: "It was unfortunate to have to go through this process, but we understand Kenneth's desire to see what his value is in the market."

Mobiline manager Frankie Lim, however, was graceful in defeat, saying that he's happy that Duremdes was able to have a better deal.

"At least, through our offer sheet, Kenneth got a better contract," Lim told the INQUIRER.

Duremdes is now Alaska's main man with the departure of Johnny Abarrientos and will lead a younger, leaner roster made up of Rodney Santos, Ali Peek, Jon Ordonio, Don Allado and rookies John Arigo and Kenny Evans.



BEST OF THE BEST
Dorothy Joy Delasin, who became the youngest player in 25 years to win an LPGA leg last year, was crowned last night as the Athlete of the Year awardee of the Philippine Sportswriters Association in glittering ceremonies at the Holiday Inn. The 20-year-old Delasin, based in Daly City in San Francisco, became only the fourth person to sweep the US Juniors, US Ladies Open and Rookie of the Year award after Amy Alcott, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods.
ROGER MARGALLO

Shark mangles Montaña, 1 away from PBL finals

GAMES TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Shark vs Hapee Toothpaste
4 p.m.—Blu Sun Power vs Welcoat

By Dennis U. Eroa

SHARK Energy Drink flashed its stingy defense last night to trounce skidding Montaña Jewels, 52-43, moving to within a win of making its second straight finals appearance in the PBL Challenge Cup semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

The Energy Drink Kings forced the Jewels to grope for their shots right from the opening buzzer en route to their 10th win against two setbacks.

Coach Leo Austria's charges seek the first finals berth against Hapee Toothpaste tomorrow. The Energy Drinks entered the Chairman's Cup finals in their rookie conference last year but bowed to Welcoat in the best-of-seven series.

"One more, one more," said Austria, who beat counterpart Leo Isaac for the third consecutive time this conference.

Austria said his pre-game plans were followed to the letter.

"We were able to clamp down on their guards. Montaña's big men also found it hard to operate," said Austria.

Guards Jacques Gottenbos, Aries Dimaunahan and Orly Torrente struggled, while big men Gilbert Lao and Mel Latoreno flopped. Just like in the past games, Recaredo Calimag didn't help Montaña's cause with his uninspired plays.

Nobody among the Jewels reached double figures, with Ernest Medina scoring seven points.

Shark started on a 20-2 run and never looked back.

It continued to pummel Montaña's defenses. Chester Tolomia's six straight points in one stretch made it 48-32 for Shark.

Welcoat Paints killed Ateneo Pioneer's final play-off aspiration with a methodical 91-62 victory for its ninth straight win in 12 outings.

Ateneo dropped to 5-8.

MONTAÑA defender Ernest Medina (left) harasses Roger Yap of Shark Energy Drink in the PBL Challenge Cup. Shark won,52-43.
ROMY HOMILLADA

Knicks' Camby suspended

NEW YORK—New York's Marcus Camby was suspended five games and fined $25,000 by the NBA Wednesday for throwing a punch at San Antonio's Danny Ferry that instead decked his own coach.

Ferry was suspended one game and fined $7,500.

Camby's punch did not strike Ferry because Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy stepped between them at the last moment. Camby's head collided with Van Gundy's, opening a cut above the coach's left eye that required more than a dozen stitches.

Camby's outburst occurred after he was struck in the eye while he and Ferry were jostling for rebounding position in the fourth quarter of New York's 104-82 victory over the Spurs Monday. *AP*

Complete Results
Philadelphia 99, Chicago 88; Dallas 91, Charlotte 90; New Jersey 108, Washington 89; Minnesota 89, Utah 81; Toronto 98, San Antonio 91; Denver 121, Vancouver 97; Sacramento 111, Boston 106; Phoenix 89, Seattle 80. *AP*

Cyclists sign manifesto urging Preysler's ouster

CYCLISTS representing different regions in the country recently signed a manifesto calling for the resignation of Joaquin Preysler as president of the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association.

The ouster move was supported by about 300 cyclists led by Armando Bautista, president of the Metropolitan Cycling Association. In turn, the signatories rallied behind the bid of former Paca secretary general Ponciano Regalado to become the association's president.

Among the big names that affixed their signatures on the manifesto were Jess Garcia, president of the Pangasinan-based National Cycling Federation of the Philippines and Professional Cycling Association of the Philippines head Paquito Rivas. *June Navarro*

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Best of All 2. Hot Number 3. Cobra Door 4. Drive On
Race 2—1. Arc de Triomphe 2. Diplomatic Bull
Race 3—1. Don Benito 2. Mighty Glow 3. Woman's Task 4. Ray Moon
Race 4—1. Aly Sam 2. Beautiful Task 3. Grand Prize 4. Native Talent
Race 5—1. Palace Hero 2. Corporate Law
Race 6—1. Noble Regent 2. Sovreignty 3. Dinner Dress 4. All Smiles
Race 7—1. The Topnotcher 2. Music City 3. Charming Belle
Race 8—1. Top Mark 2. En Carta 3. Uncle Zaam 4. Extraordinaire
Race 9—1. Bullit Express 2. Privately Owned 3. Impeccable 4. Kokoro

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Australian Open, Elimination Round at 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. (r –2 p.m.) on Sky Cable 17
ATP Qatar Open 2001, Semifinal #1 at midnight (r), Semifinal #2 tomorrow at 2 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Michigan Wolverines vs Ohio State Buckeyes at 8 a.m. (r- 4:30 p.m.), Saint Louis Billikens vs Memphis Tigers at 10 a.m. (r- tomorrow at 2 a.m.) on ESPN
NBA - Miami Heat vs Portland Trailblazers at 9 a.m. (r- 9 p.m.) on Star Sports
NBA Inside Stuff at 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: Women's World Cup of Golf 2000 Highlights at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
Inside the PGA Tour at 12:30 p.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on Star Sports
PGA Bay Hill Invitational Highlights at 6 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
LPGA Arch Wireless Championship, Second Round at 9 p.m. on ESPN

Pagunsan grabs DHL lead with 69

By Jong Arcano

IT WAS the best time to get something back from his home course

Juvic Pagunsan assembled a three-under-par 69 yesterday to snatch a one-stroke lead over Boyet Zaragosa after three rounds of the DHL Amateur Open golf championship at the Canlubang south course.

The reed-thin Pagunsan, 22, and Zaragosa, who fired a 70 capped by back-to-back birdies on Nos. 16 and 17, took advantage of two-round leader Jun Jun Plana's poor handling of the par-5s to seize the top two positions with their 215 and 216 aggregates, respectively.

Carmelette Villaroman-Calimag, meanwhile, turned the women's play into a private show, with her superb round of 71, giving the veteran national player a whopping 10-stroke lead with a 144 total.

Heidi Chua was far behind in second at 154 after a 76 with Lina de Guzman (78) another five strokes adrift at 159. Newly crowned RP ladies champ Aileen Rose Yao (79-161) was virtually out of contention.

"No winds today and clubbing was a lot easier," said Pagunsan of his steady game where he gunned down five birdies, including four on his last 10 holes. He missed only three greens, avoiding a near disaster on the seventh where his drive came very close to the OB line and turned it into a good par.

Lurking behind Pagunsan and Zaragosa was danger named Angelo Que, who was three strokes behind in third spot at 218 after matching par 72.

Que actually held the lead with a two-under card through 10 holes but a bogey on the 11th and a double-bogey on the 14th derailed his bid.

Plana, up by three over Pagunsan and Zaragosa before he teed off, gave up seven strokes on the four par-5s, picking up a double-bogey on the 9th and a triple on the 11th en route to a 78 that saw him fall to fourth at 221.

"Tough luck on the par-5s today. It was quite unfortunate because the conditions were better," said Plana.

Agojo, Thai, Korean virtual champs

THE PHILIPPINES Jayvie Agojo, Anujit Hirunratanakoru of Thailand and South Korea's Kim Jong Woong carded contrasting rounds yesterday to virtually rule their divisions in the fourth PLDT Philippine International Junior Golf Championship.

Ms Agojo toured the Wack Wack east course with an eagle on the 13th, two birdies, to pad her Class A lead to eight at 149.

Kim came up with a 75 to take a 19-stroke bubble in the boys' Class B while Anujit shot a 77 to wrest the girls' Class C lead at 161.

Indonesia's Alexander Solomon Situmpul scored a second round 72 to also virtually win the boys' Class D crown with 141.

Jennifer Fox of Australia struggled with an 80 and will start in today's final round eight strokes behind Jayvie at 157. Thailand's Phol-Auyporn Praewuspa shot an 83 to place third at 167.

Sri Lanka's Amrith de Soysa limped home with an 86 to retain second place behind Kim but ruled himself out of contention for the Class B crown.

South Korea's Kim Dae Hyun struggled with an 89 to go down to second place in Class C at 161, followed by Malaysia's Alex Tiong with 91-185 and the Philippines' Q'Roni Baterna 100-187.

"I guess so," Jayvie answered when asked if she played a wild, wild round.

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is the title sponsor in the tournament organized by the Philippine Junior Golf Federation headed by Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada.

Candelaria tops National Triathlon; De Leon wins

DUMAGUETE CITY—Hard work and dedication were rewarded as Laguna's Mark Candelaria defied all odds, winning the national championship over heavy favorites George Vilog and Arland Macasieb in the National Triathlon Trials and 2nd Inter-Club Championship held here recently.

On the distaff side, Ani Karina de Leon took advantage of Nancy Pajarillo's poor condition owing to travel woes, winning the women's open in a 2:45:31 in the event sponsored by Speedo, Negros Navigation, Viva Mineral Water, Philippine Sports commission, POC Sports for all Commission, San Miguel Beer, Bethel Guest House, Philam Life Insurance, Big Mak, and Smart Talk and Text.

Malonso slams Elizalde

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

STRAIGHTFORWARD Julian Malonso has spoken again, saying that the root cause of the problems confronting Philippine sports is "our deviation from the real objectives of the Olympics."

Malonso, a former president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, said the real objective is not to win (Olympic) gold medals because that is next to impossible, considering that "first of all we are a poor country, economically hard-up."

"We cannot compete with a big powers like the United States, Russia, Germany and the People's Republic of China," stressed Malonso, explaining that this is not only true but a chain reaction as well. "When the government is run like hell, do not expect sports to run like heaven."

An Olympic purist who played varsity basketball (for UST) in the 1940s, the venerable Malonso reiterated that government, religious and economic intervention is prohibited by the International Olympic Committee, headed by a politician, Juan Antonio Samaranch, who appointed Frank Elizalde as IOC representative to the Philippines in 1980. Malonso said Elizalde is remiss in his duty to protect the Olympic movement.

Malonso claimed Elizalde, "who interfered in the last POC elections and in the ouster of Cristy Ramos as president of the POC," is another reason why sports does not progress in the Philippines. "The POC should be composed of men and women who believe in the spirit of the Olympic Movement. Some of them are even of doubtful character without athletic background. They are only there for personal gains and for the opportunity to travel abroad."

***

JUST REWARD. I congratulate the four-year-old Dance Sports Council of the Philippines headed by Beck Garcia, for receiving a citation from the Philippine Sportswriters Association last night. It's about time.

"Dancesport in the Philippines has come a long, long way," said lawyer Noel Laman, DSCP chair, adding that the sport will garner more points with a world-class training center at the Ultra (now Philsports Arena) provided by the Philippine Sports Commission.

Last year, the council staged several successful national competitions, apart from conducting workshops in the provinces and participating in Asian competitions and international congresses. The council also upgraded the standards of local techniques and choreography by inviting foreign coaches and adjudicators, including world champions such as Russian standard dance professional pair Sacha and Olga Zenkevitch and European Latin American standouts Jason Roditis and Tonia Kosovich of Greece.

New talents expected in Batang Pinoy meet

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission centers its Batang Pinoy Games program on discovering new talents when the event designed for athletes 12 years old and below takes off on Sunday at the RECS Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Commissioner William Ramirez, overall chair of the games, assured the discovery of bright prospects as more than 2,500 competitors from 61 local government units across the nation were lured in the twice-shelved conclave.

These children-athletes, Ramirez bared, have undergone extensive training with their respective teams to flaunt their stuff in various sports events in the games which will run from Jan. 21-28.

"We expect to see new faces, new talents in this coming Batang Pinoy Games," said Ramirez.

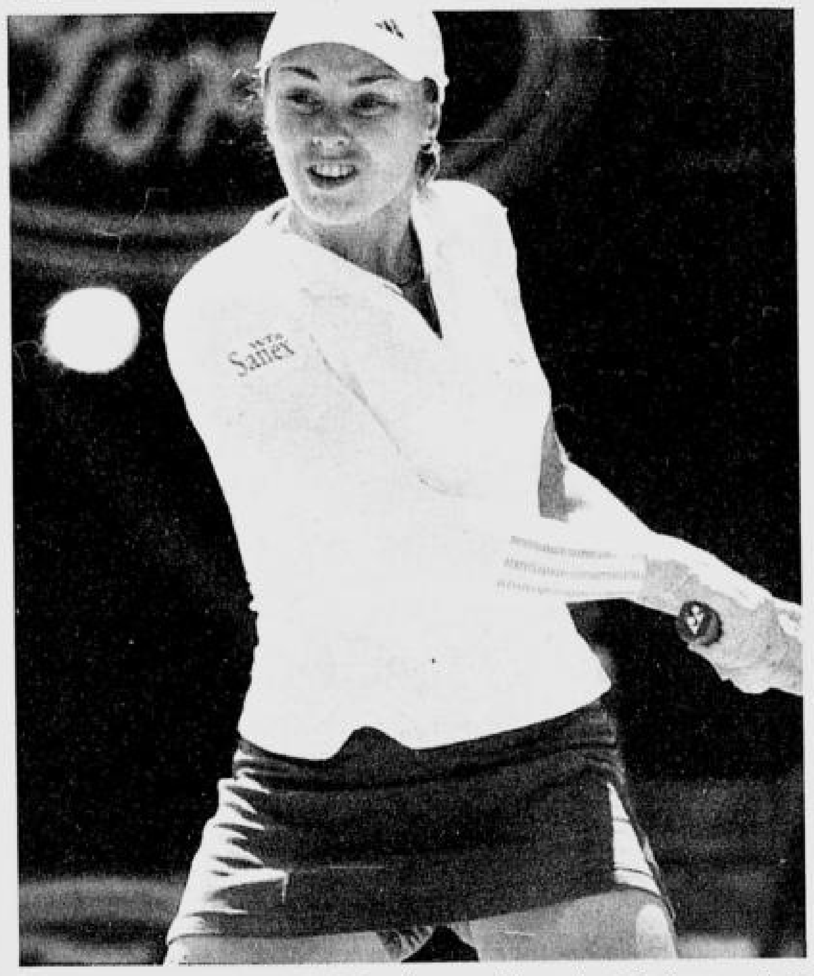
He cited the discoveries in the initial staging of the event last year in Bacolod, where a number of the National Youth Games top performers proceeded to make their marks in the international sporting scene.

Batang Pinoy stalwarts Emmanuel Quilala and Ronald Lambert Guiriba ruled the 2000 Millennium Palarong Pambansa and the Pan-Pacific School Games in Sydney.

Guiriba made waves in the Pacific Games after he copped one gold and a silver following the tanker's triple-gold medal feat during last year's Palarong Pambansa. Quilala created a ripple following a gold-medal victory also in the said tournament.

Aside from these future top local swimmers, 12-year-old gymnast Ana Cruz also landed a gold medal while her teammates Therese Aguinaldo and Ma. Angelica Basco snared a bronze each in the Sydney competition.

"The PSC is really interested to make Batang Pinoy a vehicle in the identification, promotion and selection of new talents so that we can hone them while they are young," said Ramirez.



HINGIS aims for the ball during her match against Callens. AP

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Kafelnikov, Hingis, Williamses win

MELBOURNE, Australia —Yevgeny Kafelnikov was helped the most by a ball he slammed out of the court in disgust.

His frustration vented, the 1999 champion and 2000 runner-up settled down, turned a losing match around and advanced to the Australian Open's third round with a 6-2, 3-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-0 victory Thursday over Nicolas Kiefer.

Kafelnikov, the Olympic gold medalist, finished his three-hour match with three aces.

Nothing helped Tommy Haas, who led in every set, blew a 5-0 lead in the first and missed two set points in the second before losing to No. 7 seed Lleyton Hewitt 7-5, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

Hewitt next faces unseeded Carlos Moya, the 1997 runner-up and a former No. 1. Moya breezed past Marc Rosset 6-2, 6-1, 6-3.

Canada's Daniel Nestor, who has an Olympic gold medal in doubles, upset No. 11 Franco Squillari 3-6, 6-2, 6-4, 7-5. The Argentine player was the second men's seed to fall in the first two rounds.

No. 4 Magnus Norman, a semifinalist here and runner-up at the French Open last year, defeated France's Fabrice Santoro 7-6 (6), 6-3, 6-0.

In women's matches, a third seed went out when No. 16 Amy Frazier lost 6-4, 6-1 to Italy's Rita Grande.

Top seed Martina Hingis, No. 3 Venus Williams and her sister, No. 6-seed Serena, moved ahead. Hingis needed just 40 minutes to beat Belgian Els Callens 6-1, 6-0 and needed only 79 minutes to win two matches.

Serena Williams was on court slightly more than an hour to beat Russia's Nadejda Petrova 6-3, 6-2.

Venus Williams played 91 minutes to beat American compatriot Meghann Shaughnessy 6-3, 7-6 (3). She said she felt comfortable with her game, hitting more winners, and with her new black and blue outfit, modified after her first match to nearly eliminate a low-cut gap in the two-piece top.

"I love the outfit," a beaming Williams said. "(I feel) very relaxed, very confident, comfortable–just beautiful."

Kafelnikov was not loving his game after losing serve at the start of the fourth set.

"I just lost it for a little bit," the No. 5 seed said of his ball slamming, for which he received a warning. "Maybe all my emotions went out. I started to be a lot, lot calmer. It helped." AP

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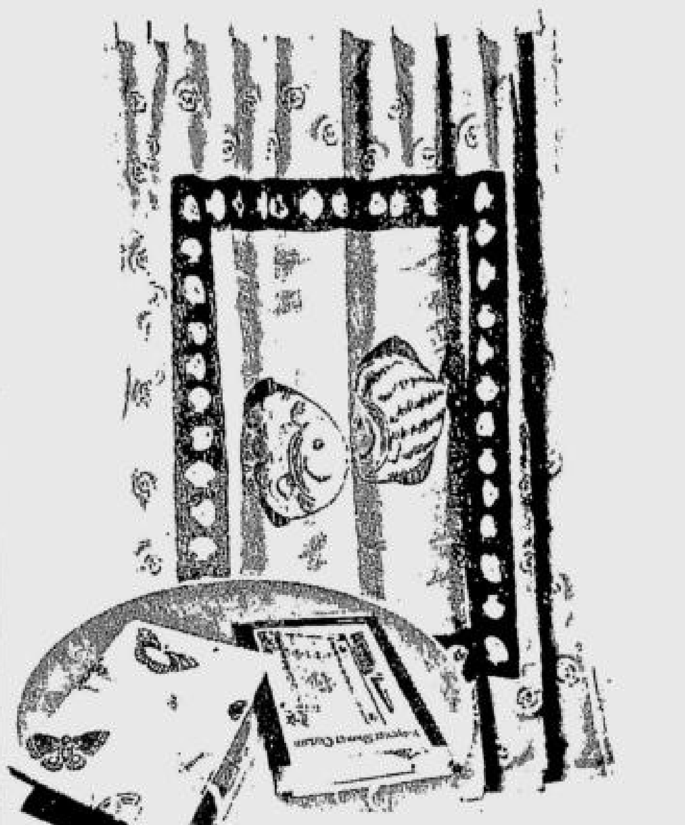

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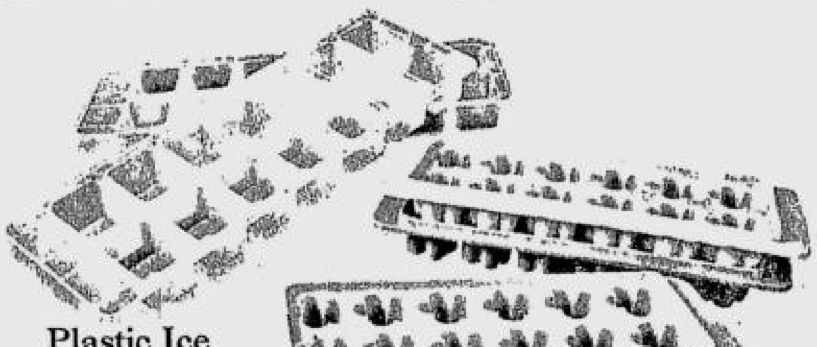

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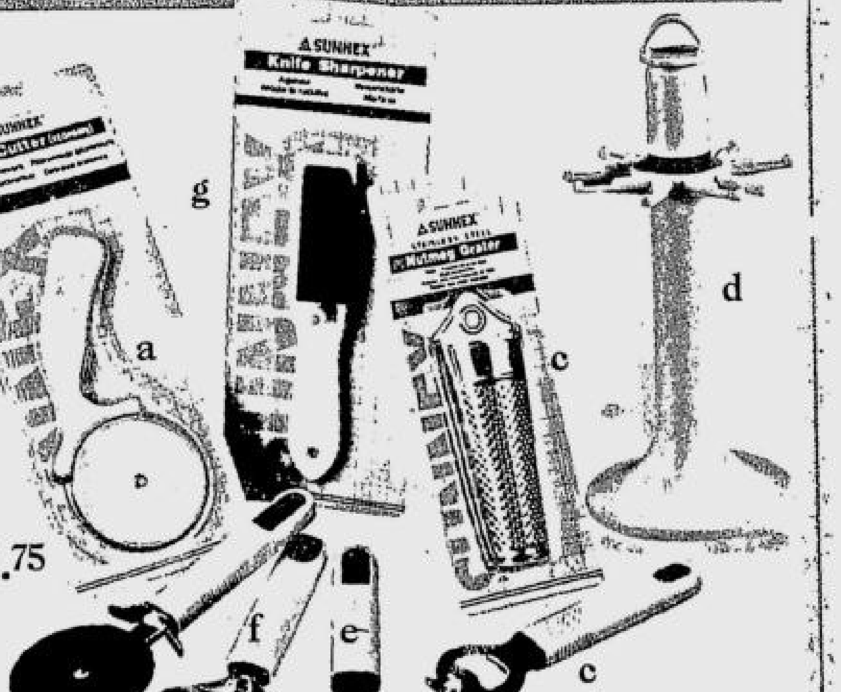

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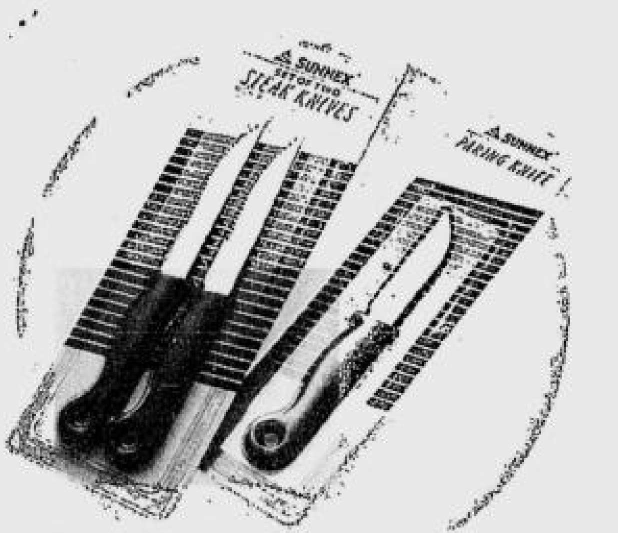

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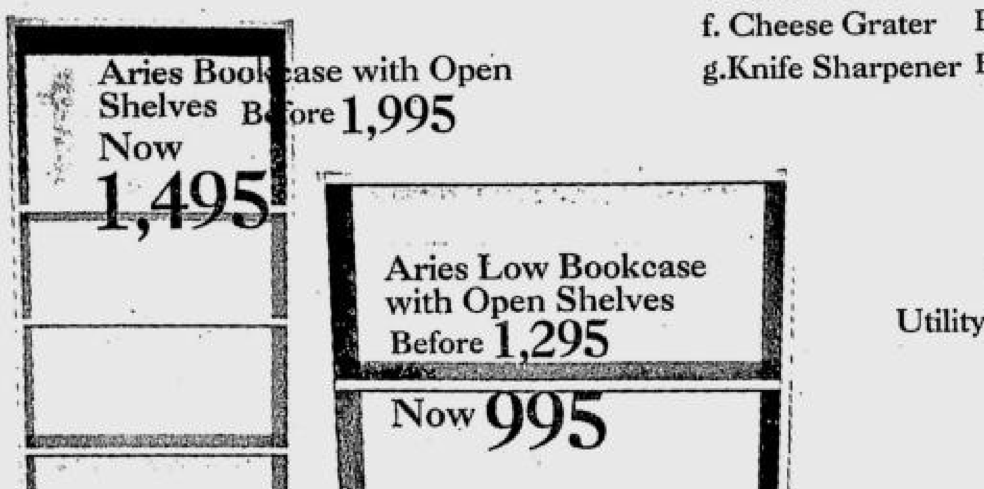

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METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Pasay garbage dumped in Quezon A24

Foreign detainees on hunger strike A25

Time to go, Erap–Bong

'I'm not my father's keeper'

By Leah Salterio

MOVIE star and Cavite Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. has asked President Estrada to step down and heed the people's clamor "before it is too late."

Revilla is a son of Sen. Ramon Revilla and a close friend of the President's son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada.

The senator recently made it to many people's "hit list" after he and 10 other senators voted against opening sealed documents containing information about the bank account of "Jose Velarde," a name used by the President.

"I am not my father's keeper," the young Revilla said in a statement.

The action star said he also consulted movie action king Fernando Poe Jr., a close friend of the President. Poe is a principal sponsor in Revilla's wedding.

REVILLA

TIME TO GO/ A24

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Rebel!

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IF he's diagnosed with incurable cancer, mumbled one very frustrated friend, he would get a gun and go on a suicide mission to assassinate the Top Ass in Malacañang Palace.

No need to get sick in order to kill Public Enemy No. 1, I told him.

Why?

With President Estrada and the 11 Incurable Senators there, who needs to get sick with cancer here?

Anyway, if you feel sick whenever you think of Judas, just consider what this remarkable texter had to send. He said that Jesus Christ was lucky enough because, out of his 12 disciples, only one stabbed him in the back. In our case, the text message noted that a total of 11 senators turned out to be all incurable Judases.

At last count, the public has, of course, listed Sen. Francisco Tatad, who studied at the University of Sto. Tomas but graduated in the Ferdinand Marcos School of Evil Tricks, as the Dean of the Filipino Judases.

***

You see, if not for Tatad's hideous motion for the Senate tribunal to vote, Chief Justice Hilario Davide would have rendered a decision saving us from this current chaos.

Davide, who always tried to play it right and safe, was preempted. He therefore opted to just let the tribunal vote and come up with that disastrous decision.

Now, they are asking how Davide would've voted if Tatad had not stood up to stall him.

I have never doubted the Chief Justice, so far the most heroic among the main characters in the Estrada Impeachment show, would opt for the general good.

On Wednesday, Davide offered to say what was on his mind during those tense, very decisive moments.

Pressed by a group of female fans, who requested to be photographed with him, Davide offered a thrilling reply.

"How I would have voted?" Davide asked smiling. "I would have voted the way you would think I would vote."

The Chief Justice predictably received an ovation.

***

No applause for my right knee out here, though.

Immediately after the 11 Judases had succeeded in concealing the truth about their patron's evil bank accounts, I decided to go out and join the protesting multitude at Edsa.

This was on Tuesday evening. But, damn it, when I rose from my TV perch, that right knee misbehaved. It ached and refused to join me in that march.

You see, the years together with too many games and too many days out in the sandlot have rendered this right knee arthritic.

That knee had been used and abused. OK. But I have also reason to suspect that it was this sick part of my anatomy which had led me to foolishly vote for Mr. Estrada.

Here's why: When I decided it was time to take that wrong vote back by going to Edsa to protest the immoral ways of the President, that pro-Erap knee held me back.

***

It was the same case Wednesday. No, the foul knee actually felt and behaved even worse. It swelled and throbbed, thereby holding me back in my seat, if not in bed, for the whole day.

I felt very frustrated. I felt like crying.

I got calls from friends, mainly civic worker Nandy Charvet, saying they had skipped office to be at Edsa.

I also saw former President Fidel Ramos on television walking all the way from the airport down to the famous protest shrine.

I could've have gone in a wheelchair.

I, however, reconsidered.

I know my time would come.

And true enough, after praying to the Queen of Peace, a day of fruits, tea and harmless fresh juices, I woke up yesterday with that pro-Erap knee vanquished.

All the evil pains were gone.

***

Needless to say, I am rushing this piece in order to be where I had decided to be as early as Tuesday evening.

I woke up with a happy report from Ms Eva de Leon, Star correspondent in Pangasinan, that my friend, Dagupan City Mayor Al Fernandez, has renounced ties with the President whom he has tagged as "that evil one in the Palace."

Fernandez, a frequent Malacañang visitor, is also president of the City Mayors League of the Philippines.

After thanking Mayor Al, allow me to offer an invitation for everybody to get out and be counted.

We must reject shameless, dancing, big-mouthed whores in the Senate.

We must all stand up and fight gangsterism in our government.

We must reject a dumb, dirty President who can't even sign his right name.

We must prevent a culture of Judases from completely ruining our lives and faith.

We must reject this cancer of an immoral government.

Let's join hands and renounce evil.

Let's choose a true leader, Pimentel or Davide, and mount this all-out fight to restore good in our shattered society.

Let's rebel!

Pasay City garbage dumped in Quezon

By Arnel Avila
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCBAN, Quezon—Residents of Pasay City may have experienced temporary relief from the garbage problem but at the expense of residents of this town.

Nineteen truckloads of garbage, reportedly from Pasay City, had been dumped in Barangay Kalyaat, six kilometers from the town proper, according to local officials.

Barangay Kalyaat chair Romy Cada yesterday testified in a meeting that Lucban Mayor Serafin Dator approved the requests of the chairs of Pasay City's barangays 152, 165, 168 and 171 to make Kalyaat their temporary dump.

The meeting was convened by Association of Barangay Captains president Joselito Avila.

Dator was out of town, attending a meeting called by San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada.

It was found out during the meeting that 19 10-wheeler trucks dumped garbage in Kalyaat between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. in the past three days. Each truck paid P30 as "barangay fee," said Cada.

The head of the Kalyaat police, Chief Insp. Dante Suarez, has sent his men to prevent any more attempt to dump garbage in the town.

"There are at least 30 natural springs here that might be affected by the dumping of garbage," Vice Mayor Armando Abutal said. He pointed out that Lucban is the source of potable water of the towns of Tayabas and Pagbilao and Lucena City.

Lucban, 28 kilometers north of Lucena City, is the site of the annual "Pahiyas," the highlight of the Feast of St. Isidore that draws thousands of local and foreign tourists.

In July 2000, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan enacted a resolution prohibiting national agencies and private sector entities from dumping garbage in any part of the province.

This came after Talaga revealed the plan of the Metro Manila Development Authority to dump garbage in Pagbilao, Quezon as an alternative site for Metro Manila's garbage after the July 10 Payatas landslide.

Artists join ouster call

AN ENTERTAINMENT industry group has renewed its voice to the call for President Estrada to step down, describing him as "the ultimate promoter of deceit and lies."

In a statement yesterday, Concerned Artists of the Philippines (CAP) said Mr. Estrada no longer has the "credibility and integrity, the capability and competence, to govern our country."

The group said it agrees with the move of the government prosecutors withdrawing from the Estrada impeachment trial.

"We should not allow the country's future to be sealed by these 11 pro-Estrada senators who voted according to party lines instead of the interest of the people, for gobbledygook instead of reason, for technicality instead of truth," the CAP statement said.

"The worsening economic crisis, the collapsing banking system, the breakdown of peace and order, the increasing sufferings of the Filipino people are more than enough reasons for Estrada's ouster."

"The subject is Estrada, the predicate is oust," it said.

Pick up your litter, Atienza tells ralliers

PEOPLE participating in rallies should pick up their trash to help minimize the worsening garbage situation in Metro Manila, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said yesterday.

Atienza made the appeal to people attending anti-Estrada rally on Edsa and the pro-Estrada rally on Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge near Malacañang.

"I hope that those who are on Edsa and on Mendiola in exercise of their constitutionally mandated right to freedom of expression and assembly would also remember to exercise their stewardship responsibilities as citizens and not throw trash on the streets," the mayor said in a statement.

"Please pick up trash on the streets and dispose them in the proper manner," he added.

Atienza made the statement after he saw video footages of trash such as discarded plastic water bottles and junk food wrappers strewn on Edsa and Ortigas Avenue as well as on Claro M. Recto Avenue leading to Don Chino Roces.

He said that regardless of political inclination, people have a duty to help keep the streets clean.

"We in Manila are proud that we are still able to maintain cleanliness in our city despite the ongoing garbage crisis in the metropolis," he said.

Last week, Atienza warned Manila residents that they ran the risk of being jailed if they threw garbage on the streets.

The law says litterbugs face up to six months imprisonment.

Time to go . . . (From page A23)

Revilla said he told Poe of his plan through fellow actor Phillip Salvador, also a known staunch supporter of the President.

"Ninong Ronnie told me, 'If you think that's right, it's for the best and it's for Cavite, then do it. Follow your heart.'"

The young Revilla went against family and friends when on Wednesday night he showed up with his wife, Lani Mercado, at the Edsa Shrine, where a huge anti-Erap crowd had gathered. With him were scores of other Cavite residents.

Among other entertainers who were also seen on Edsa yesterday were Kuh Ledesma, Aiko Melendez, Jim Paredes, Makati Vice Mayor Edu Manzano, Gary Valenciano, Ivy Violan, Cynthia Patag, Tessie Tomas, Diether Ocampo, Cookie Chua, Leah Navarro, Ma. Isabel Lopez, Anthony Pangilinan, Jon Santos, Jeffrey Hidalgo and Monsour del Rosario.

"I was constrained to make that painful decision even if I negated the stand taken by my father and best friend," Revilla told the Inquirer yesterday.

"It hurts me to go against their principles and decisions about this issue, but I have to make my position clear to protect the interest of the people," he added. "Truth may be painful but it will set us free."

Revilla, who heads the Lakas-NUCD party in Cavite, said he had to get clearance from his father before he went to Edsa. Members of the Lakas party in Cavite met at his residence after midnight on Tuesday, he said.

"I'm sure my father has his own reasons for voting no (to the opening of the Velarde envelope," the governor said. "But he told me, 'Go with your heart. I might have made a mistake, I may be wrong, but do what you think is best.'"

Revilla said he is sad because his decision could affect his long-time friendship with San Juan Mayor Ejercito.

"As far as I'm concerned, the friendship is still there, only our beliefs and principles are different now," Revilla said. "I hope someday he (Ejercito) will realize that what I did was right."

Revilla's wife Lani Mercado said they were surprised by Senator Revilla's "no" vote in the Estrada impeachment trial.

"We thought he would make a conscience vote because he was very insistent that all witnesses and proof should be presented," said the governor's wife. "But when he voted no, we were really disappointed."

Mercado, who is said to be running for mayor of Bacoor, Cavite in the May elections, said many people raised their eyebrows when she and her husband showed up at the Edsa Shrine.

"We heard remarks like 'Totoo ba 'yan (Are they for real)?' or 'Best actor,'" she said. "But we knew we had to make a stand. I am behind my husband one hundred percent.

Mercado said it took a lot of courage for them to finally join the anti-Erap crowd.

"We know we're turning our backs on friends, but the friendship is still there," she said.

EARDRUMS SHATTERED

Bomb thrown inside cab

IT WAS an ear-splitting prank that nearly killed taxi driver Marcelo de Leon.

De Leon, 45, did not know what possessed four young men to toss a pillbox inside his cab Tuesday night in Caloocan City.

When it exploded, the cab's rear windshield and roof were shattered, police said.

De Leon, of Marulas, Valenzuela City, said the explosion also nearly shattered his eardrums.

Supt. Eduardo Bayangos, commander of Caloocan Police Sub-station 2, identified the suspects as Allan Albert Hilario, 22, Benjamin Palomo, 20, Homer Castro, 21, and a 17-year-old boy.

Members of the barangay *tanod* arrested them and turned them over to police.

PO1 Arnel de Guzman said De Leon was driving his RR Abirentos taxi when Hilario and Palomo allegedly blocked his path at the corner of Peralta and De Leon streets and threw a pillbox inside the cab at about 11 p.m. Tuesday.

The two other suspects reportedly served as lookouts, police said.

Though De Leon escaped with only a few bruises, he almost lost his eardrums in the explosion, PO1 De Guzman said.

The suspects tried to escape, but *tanod* members came to De Leon's rescue and arrested them, police added.

The Caloocan City prosecutor's office is set to file a case of attempted homicide against the suspects who are now detained at the Caloocan police headquarters. *Christian V. Esguerra*

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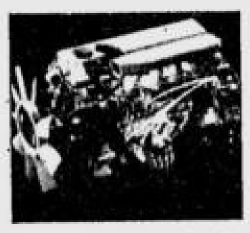

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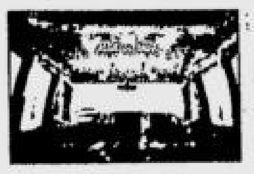

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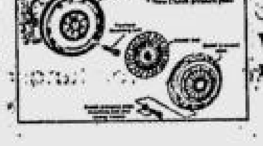

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Foreign detainees on hunger strike

By Alcuin Papa

FIFTEEN detainees at the Bureau of Immigration detention center in Bicutan, Taguig started a hunger strike on Wednesday to dramatize their protest against abuses allegedly committed by immigration officials.

In a manifesto, the detainees said they started the hunger strike to call for immediate action on their deportation cases and to protest the denial of bail for their temporary release.

"Although the amended 1987 Constitution allows for the granting of bail as a constitutional right of an accused in criminal proceedings, an outdated immigration law of 1940 grants absolute authority to the immigration commissioner. It lays the ground for corruption," said the manifesto, a copy of which was sent to the INQUIRER yesterday.

The foreigners are asking for, among others, the granting of bail to any qualified alien, the expeditious disposition of deportation cases, and the exclusion of criminal cases from the Philippine Immigration Act.

Canadian Raymond Jackson said the 15 foreign protesters, mostly from Middle East countries, would take only fruit juices during the hunger strike.

"There are a lot of detainees here who are routinely being detained without bail," Jackson said. "We demand the immediate resolution of immigration cases."

He scored the Immigration intelligence chief, Supt. Angelito Tan, for blocking efforts to grant bail to the detainees.

Detainees have also been protesting alleged human rights violations by immigration officials, such as extortion, arbitrary detention and poor detention conditions.

Jeep kills boy, 5

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD boy who was sent out to buy food for supper was run over by a speeding passenger jeepney in Pasay City on Wednesday afternoon.

The victim was Mark Gil Cano, of Zone 16, Sto. Niño, Pasay City, according to the Pasay City police Traffic Management Group.

Investigation by PO1 Orlando Frigillana showed that the boy was run over by a jeepney (NWH-332) while crossing Taft Avenue in front of the Kawasaki Service Center at about 5 p.m. Wednesday.

The driver of the jeepney, identified as Rolando Capsa, a resident of G. Reyes Street, also in Pasay City, surrendered to police after the accident.

The boy died at the accident scene from broken bones and other injuries in different parts of the body.

Police said the boy's father was ferrying passengers on his pedicab when neighbors told him about his son's accident.

—Alcuin Papa

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

A large reputable Bank in Makati is accepting proposals to prequalify to bid for the:

Preparation and Production of an Annual Report

The above job will include design and layout, typesetting, photography including all photographic materials and processing, color separation, printing and binding, and related services. The Bank requires the following to be submitted together with the formal offer to prequalify:

1. Proof that the offeror has at least five (5) years experience in the design and layout, photography and production/printing of Annual Reports.
2. Track record in the production of Annual Reports for the top 500 corporations in the Philippines.
3. Written conformity to the following conditions:
   - Background check specially from previous clients shall be conducted by the Bank.
   - Visit to check on equipment and other facilities.
   - A refundable deposit of Manager's Check of P50,000.00 shall be submitted when required.
4. Audited Financial Statement for the last 2 years (1999-2000).
5. Copy of Income Tax Return for the last 2 years (1999-2000).
6. Proof of registration of business name.
7. List of references of previous clients.

DBP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of the Bank is final and binding.

Please address formal offer to The Chairman, Annual Report Committee, P.O. Box 1996, Makati Central Post Office 1200, Makati City. The Committee shall accept all submissions postmarked not later than **January 31, 2001.**

(PDI – Jan 18 & 19, 2001)

De La Salle University
Manila

A LASALLIAN CALL for NATIONAL RENEWAL

We, students, faculty, staff, and alumni of the Lasallian community, reject the continuation of the impeachment trial.

While we praise the ten Senator-Judges who voted to open the second bank envelope, while we salute, Senator-Judge Nene Pimentel for his heroic act of patriotism, and while we thank Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. for his exemplary wisdom, we are outraged at the blatant suppression of truth by the eleven Senator-Judges who put personal concerns over national interest.

We are convinced that the impeachment trial will not succeed in bringing President Joseph Ejercito Estrada to justice.

On the basis of the evidence we have heard and seen so far, President Estrada is guilty of the charges against him. He is totally unfit and unworthy to govern our people.

We demand President Estrada's resignation now!

Nothing that President Estrada can do can restore the loss of confidence in his leadership and his government. He can no longer redeem the trust that he has betrayed. He is a morally bankrupt president.

We call on all the members of the Lasallian community, as well as all law-abiding Filipinos, to join rallies and other peaceful forms of protest to fight for our people's right to a truthful, just, and free government.

We call on all members of the Cabinet to resign now! They should not prop up a totally immoral president! If they have the interest of the country at heart, they will not serve a man without honor or principles.

We call on President Estrada to resign before he brings the whole country down with him to the depths of moral depravity!

Carmelita Quebengco

Bro. Rolando Dizon, FSC
President, De La Salle University System

Dr. Carmelita I. Quebengco
Executive Vice President
De La Salle University - Manila

Dr. Isagani Cruz
Head
DLSU Society of Fellows

Dr. Aurora Trance
President
DLSU Faculty Association

Ms. Jolina Mallari
President
DLSU Student Council

ADVT.

ANG BAGONG PAGBABASURA

ZERO BASURA PHILIPPINES
A GREEN MOVEMENT

Sec. Robert N. Aventajado
Chairman, Presidential Committee on Flagship Program and Projects

Ano ang ecological waste management?
Ang pagsasaayos ng mga bagay na ating itinatapon sa paraang hindi nakakaperwisyo.

Ano ang ginagawa ninyo sa basura ngayon?
Pinaghalo-halo, itinapon sa basurahan, kinukuha ng trak ng basura at dinadala sa dumpsite o landfill.

Tama ba iyon?
Hindi. Dahil wala nang pakinabang ang basura kung pinaghalo-halo ang nabubulok at di-nabubulok.

Ilang klase ng basura meron?

Nabubulok at *(Biodegradable)*	**Di-Nabubulok** *(Non-biodegradable)*
· tirang pagkain	· lata,bakal
· pinagbalatan ng gulay at prutas	· bote, salamin (buo at basag)
· pinagtabasan ng gulay	· plastic
· hasang/bituka ng isda	· papel, karton
· gamit na tissue paper, papel na napkin	· lumang goma/gulong
· balat ng tulya, tahong at hipon	· tela
· dumi ng hayop, patay na hayop	· styrofoam
· dahon, sanga, tangkay, damo	· yero, aluminum
	· baterya ng sasakyan

Ano ang dapat gawin?
Ihiwalay ang nabubulok sa di-nabubulok.

Ano ang mangyayari pag ginawa ito?
Ang mga nabubulok na basura ay ibabaon sa lupa upang gawing compost o pataba sa lupa, at ang di-nabubulok ay ibebenta sa junk shops o gamitin muli (recycle).

Paano kung wala akong malawak na lupa para mag-compost?
Maaring mag-compost sa paso, gulong, plastic bag, atbp.

May amoy bang mabaho kapag nag-cocompost?
Wala kung tama ang iyong paraan ng pag-cocompost.

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Zero Kalat sa Kaunlaran (ZKK)	Tel. 285-5244
Recycling Movement of the Philippines	Tel. 851-6502 & 824-1117
Quezon Memorial Circle Foundation	Tel. 924-3395
Artist for the Environment/ Zero Basura Workshop	Tel. 933-3698 & 997-9185

Para sa karagdagang impormasyon tungkol sa junk shops at pag-recycle, tumawag lamang sa:

Metro Manila Linis Ganda	Tel. 727-1219 & 410-0383

"Kay Ganda ng Malinis, Kainis ang Madungis"

A Project of the Presidential Committee on Flagship Programs and Projects and the Greater Metropolitan Manila Solid Waste Management Committee

Gupitin at gamiting batayan

ABS-CBN coverage of people power better than GMA

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

GMA may be getting a big chunk of viewers for its top-rating news and public affairs programs, but when it comes to doing live coverage, it has to bow to ABS-CBN which has more modern broadcast equipment that enables the network to deliver live video feeds as soon as the news happens.

Tuesday night, while a growing multitude gathered at the Edsa Shrine to protest the "no" votes of the 11 senators, ABS-CBN sent its ENG (electronic news gathering) vans to the historic site.

TV viewers got a feel of the live crowd at the corner of Ortigas and Edsa, where ABS-CBN reporters were also at work until the wee hours. **Cherie Mercado, Pia Hontiveros** and **Gigi Grande** were interviewing people at the Edsa Shrine.

Another ENG van was on Mendiola near Malacañang, where **JV Villar** was reporting on the pro-Erap demonstrators.

The reporters were on a live hookup with the studio, where "Headlines" anchors **Gel Santos Relos** and **Tony Velasquez** were doing overtime work.

At 3 a.m., ABS-CBN was still doing its nonstop coverage, this time with **Ces Drilon** and **Gene Orejana**.

In contrast, GMA only had **Jessica Soho** in the studio and phone-patch interviews by field reporter **Susan Aguinaldo** at the scene. Even the video footage was not live and was marked "recorded earlier."

It was too disappointing. No matter how much GMA tried to present an extensive coverage, it was limited by technical glitches, like phone lines getting cut off.

Bill Luz of the Makati Business Club could barely hear Jessica's questions. The phone line eventually went dead, so Jessica was forced to cut the interview.

Apparently, GMA was not equipped to send an ENG van to the Edsa Shrine that night. The network has only two ENG vans, but we heard that one was burned after its antenna hit an electric cable.

Jessica should be lauded for her seemingly tireless coverage of the impeachment trial. She stayed up until late Tuesday, and she was seen again the following afternoon doing field work and interviewing senator-judges.

The two leading networks should be given credit for bringing the news to viewers here and abroad. GMA and ABS-CBN sacrifice precious TV and radio airtime and preempt their programs with millions of pesos in advertising load just so they could give live updates of the Philippine situation.

TOP-HEAVY Rufa Mae had to walk naked on the street in "Booba."

Comedy made Rufa Mae cry

"IT'S about time," says **Rufa Mae Quinto** of her solo movie, "Booba," directed by **Joyce Bernal** for Viva Films. "If not now, when will I ever do it?"

It took Joyce to convince Rufa Mae to accept the project, which they had been discussing for the past two years. Since Rufa Mae made her big screen debut four years ago in "Indecent Professor" (with **Leo Martinez** and a host of other sexy stars, including **Amanda Page**), she never really aspired to have her own solo movie.

"Actually, I really didn't want to make a solo movie because you're more pressured," she explains. "I was content with being a leading lady and a supporting cast. But when I saw 'Booba,' I wanted to cry. I couldn't believe it was really my movie."

Rufa Mae started in show biz when she was only 17. At that time, she was aware that people noticed her only because of her physical assets, especially her breast. Hence, she became known as a "sexy star."

She tried to discard that tag by doing comedy, where she proved to be effective and, subsequently, popular.

"I didn't sleep for a night just thinking what I would do with my career," she shares. "I didn't want to be just another sexy star for whom nothing happens after she goes bold. But when I did comedy, people noticed my talent."

Now, Rufa Mae is convinced she is popular. "*Pinag-aagawan na 'ko ng* networks *ngayon*," she says. "Lately, I've been really busy. I only get 3-4 hours of sleep every night. I am doing my album, taping for my TV sitcom, dubbing the movie and promoting it at the same time. *Mas hirap ako* but I'm happier now as far as my career is concerned."

"Booba" is a sexy comedy with an R-18 rating. Rufa Mae doesn't mind that the movie capitalizes on her 36-24-36 figure. She even has a frontally nude scene when, while supposedly drunk, she walks unclothed on the street.

Rufa Mae worked really hard for her solo starrer. The MTV for "Booba" alone was a tedious job. Singing and dancing in crowded places like Quiapo and Morayta, Rufa Mae shot from sunup to the next morning.

"It wasn't easy," Rufa Mae attests. "Sometimes *nahihiya na ko sa mga tao* because I had to wear all those sexy clothes and dance in the middle of the street. *May* part *pa na nag*-tumbling *ako*. That was really hard to do because so many people were watching."

Rufa Mae is supported in "Booba" by fellow comediennes **Gina Pareño** and **Ai-Ai de las Alas**.

Regine Velasquez, her costar in last year's box office hit, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," offered to be a guest in "Booba."

"But I told Regine to support me in the album instead," Rufa Mae says.

The "Booba" album was launched early this week, featuring mostly novelty tunes.

"There are shirts and even a contest," Rufa Mae says. "Viva went really all-out to promote the movie that's why I'm very thankful."

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SCREENING SCHEDULES
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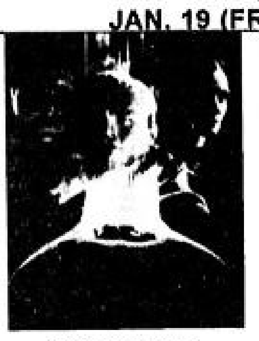
LITTLE NICKY
(PG-13)
11:00am/1:10pm
3:20/5:30/7:40/9:50
12:00 MN



RED PLANET
(PG-13)
1:20pm / 4:00
6:40 / 9:20
12:00 MN

REMEMBER THE TITANS
(GP)
11:20am / 2:00pm
4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
12:00 MN

HIGHLANDER ENDGAME

HIGHLANDER: ENDGAME
(R)
11:00am / 1:10pm
3:20/5:30/7:40/ 9:50
12:00 MN

VAL KILMER
CARRIE-ANNE MOSS
TOM SIZEMORE
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LITTLE NICKY 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	MEET THE PARENTS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	REMEMBER THE TITANS 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20

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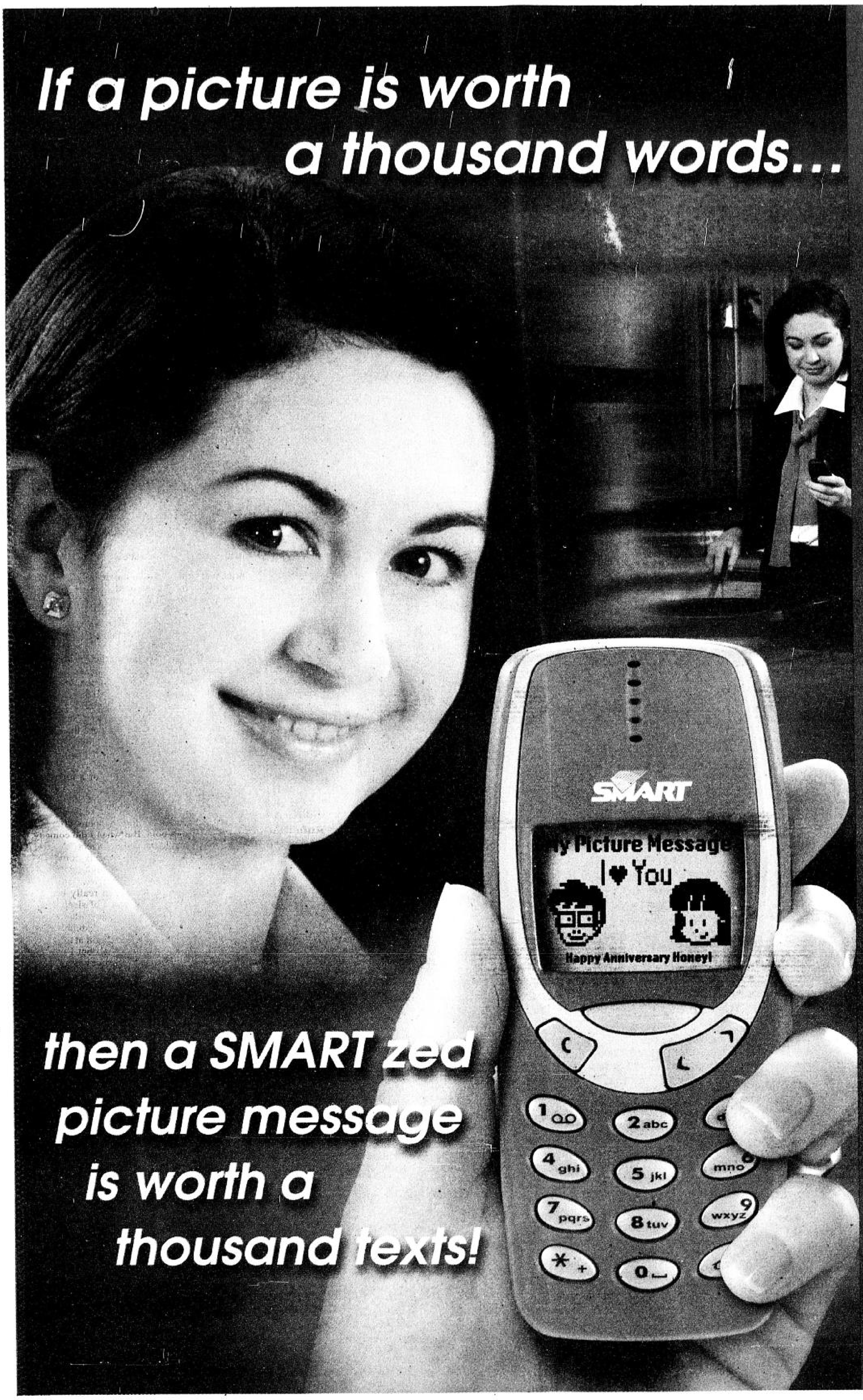
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'CAST AWAY'

Will this cerebral, unique, thought-provoking film click?

By Paul Y. Daza

REVIEW

THE HUGE US box-office triumph of the new Tom Hanks drama "Cast Away" is surprising, considering that Americans seemed to have gotten tired of the life-on-a-deserted-island theme following the success of the reality TV show, "Survivor."

Who would have thought that an experimental film starring Hanks, Helen Hunt and a volleyball named Wilson would be as popular as a big-budget, high-octane package like "Mission Impossible 2," which starred the other Tom, megastar Tom Cruise?

To date, the acclaimed "Cast Away" has made more than $170 million, marking Hanks' 9th consecutive film to cross the century mark. It's expected to make $200 million to $220 million by February.

Will this cerebral, unconventional movie click with local audiences?

Though "Cast Away" succeeds in twisting the Hollywood formula for a commercial movie, its appeal to Filipinos is doubtful. And that amounts to a sad loss on their part.

"Cast Away" is experimental in many respects. Its middle section, which runs for about an hour, features only Hanks onscreen and has hardly any dialogue or movie music. In long stretches, the only thing Hanks converses with is a volleyball with a bloody handprint for a face. And because this is a realistic film, the ball doesn't answer back.

The film also rarely employs traditional, manipulative music on the soundtrack and has an ambiguous ending which harkens to Robert Frost's poem, "The Road Not Taken."

Does this sound like the kind of movie that would appeal to Pinoys who trooped to see "Charlie's Angels" and "Hollow Man" last year?

The director of "Cast Away," Robert Zemeckis, first worked with Hanks in their Oscar-winning collaboration, "Forrest Gump." Just like in that episodic tearjerker, Zemeckis' work on "Cast Away" has elevated and broadened the boundaries of the craft of moviemaking.

Rewarding

"Cast Away" plays a lot like a silent film, relying almost solely on images, environments and facial expressions to propel the plot instead of on clichéd dialogue and formulaic story twists. Zemeckis' popular and critical success has given him the confidence and clout to try new things in his films, and viewers who go along for the ride are rewarded too. In broadening their artistic horizons, directors like Zemeckis broaden the viewers', too.

"Cast Away" is about a time-obsessed Fed-Ex manager, Chuck Noland, who becomes the sole survivor of a plane crash and is marooned on an island in the Pacific. He has to learn how to survive without the conveniences of modern life, such as electricity, gas, a cellular phone and ready-to-cook food. He's a man from the Computer Age who is thrust back into the Stone Age.

MAROONED on an island, Tom Hanks' character talks to a ball and the ball doesn't answer.

"FORREST Gump" director Zemeckis has the confidence and clout to try new things in "Cast Away."

If Zemeckis and Hanks (who came up with the story for the film) were less courageous and less talented than they are, they could have easily opted to give Chuck Noland a companion so that he could at least have someone to exchange ideas with.

In archetypical island movies like "Swiss Family Robinson" and "The Blue Lagoon," there are at least two people on the island. This makes it easier to add a "man versus man" motif on top of the "man versus nature" tug-of-war. "Cast Away" becomes more harrowing and more philosophical as a result of the man-versus-self struggle.

Lightening up

Zemeckis surely knows that even the heaviest movies need to lighten up every now and then to keep the viewer interested. As in all his previous movies, Zemeckis uses amazing camera tricks and angles in "Cast Away" that will enthrall attentive cineastes.

The opening scene, for example, follows a Fed-Ex package from a farmhouse in rural USA to the Red Square in Moscow. What's amazing is that the scene appears to have been photographed by a camera the size of an ant attached to the Fed-Ex package!

As Jodie Foster expressed in the DVD commentary of the 1997 sci-fi gem "Contact," "Bob Zemeckis must stay up all night thinking of shots like this." Good thing, too, that Zemeckis uses this shot at the very beginning of the film – such a gimmick would have been out of place in the middle of "Cast Away," which is more about raw, primitive emotions rather than high-tech filmmaking wizardry.

"Cast Away" has many special visual effects but they are of the more invisible kind, such as the augmentation of waves and the substitution of boring, natural skies with more cinematic, computer-painted ones. The more obvious use of computer effects occurs during the plane crash scene and in a shot where a whale appears beside Hanks as he's drifting in the middle of the ocean.

Nominations and awards

If you're looking for sly references to other popular films (and what trendy movie out there doesn't have any?), there's a scene where Chuck Noland is offered a Dr. Pepper, which, if you'll recall, was Forrest Gump's favorite drink (a dozen Dr. Peppers were the reason Gump told President JFK that he "has to go to pee").

And what of Hanks performance? Hanks has already been nominated for a Golden Globe for "Cast Away," and the New York Film Critics have already given him the award for Best Actor. A nomination for a Best Actor Academy Award is assured next month.

My opinion, though, is that he's now too big a star to make you completely suspend disbelief that you're watching the character, and not Tom Hanks playing that character.

The other star of the film is the island itself where Noland is marooned. Zemeckis and his talented cinematographer Don Burgess wisely avoid the trap of making the island look too pretty. Instead of making the island look like a tourist destination (which is what "The Blue Lagoon" island looked like), they make it look threatening and resistant to Noland's attempts to tame it.

A constantly–moving camera makes some of the scenes almost three-dimensional. The shot where the camera cranes on top of Hanks as he's climbing up a hill and looking down at the breakwater may give you vertigo, like it did me.

Unique, thought-provoking

I'm praying there's a local audience out there that will make this film a success. Times being as hard as they are, how can you convince a Filipino who likes movies to spend P50 on a movie which doesn't have gunfire, space ships, or titillating scenes? How ironic that the very thing this movie has going for it is the very thing that will make audiences avoid it: the fact that it's unique, thought-provoking and substantial.

The marketing gurus at Viva/UIP have their work cut out for them with this one. It'll be interesting to see how their collective efforts will convince distracted Filipinos that "Cast Away" is a movie worth their time and precious, precious money.

The Zen of golf

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE don't get much old-style, homespun wisdom from the movies we see these days, but **Robert Redford** aims to help make up for that lack with his latest film as director, "The Legend of Bagger Vance."

The movie is shot in lambent, golden tones that makes viewers feel warm and cozy, and the lines its characters speak come from the (pristine) heart. It's tribute to the values that should endure to this day, despite the deteriorating moral landscape of the new millennium.

"The Legend of Bagger Vance" is set in the years after World War I and focuses on a young champion golfer named **Rannulph Junuh (Matt Damon)** who loses his innocence and will to make something of himself after he witnesses the carnage of the first global conflict.

During the Depression, the woman he's left behind (**Charlize Theron**) decides to get her fellow residents of Savannah, Georgia, out of the nut they're in by holding a golf tournament that will be participated in by some national champions.

Junuh is practically forced to awaken from his drunken stupor to give the home crowd some local representation.

Alas, it's clear early on that he isn't up to the high-level competition—until a caddie named **Bagger Vance (Will Smith)** mysteriously appears out of nowhere to help him get a handle on his game—and his life.

This is when the movie becomes a dramatized treatise on the Zen of golf. We're made to see that Junuh's game is off because he hasn't faced up to the demons within himself his terrible loss of confidence in humanity and himself can he rediscover the "authentic" golf swing that will propel him to victory.

At times, Redford's "teaching and preaching" becomes too heavy-handed, but we still appreciate how he's trying to help us get back to the basics of living and loving.

We soon see that the game of golf here is only an objective correlative for the game of life itself, and that even non-golfers can benefit from Bagger Vance's wise counsel.

Damon does well in this film, but it's Theron and Smith who "make" the movie with their performances. For years now, Smith has entertained viewers with his cocky, with-it acting style, but director Redford has helped him come up with a different kind of portrayal here.

Instead of flashily entertaining us to distraction, he opts to play it pensive and thoughtful, and the effect is quietly powerful.

For her part, Theron beautifully vivifies the complex character of Junuh's spurned girlfriend who rises above her deep depression to honor her dead father's memory, gift her fellow Savannah residents with something to boast their flagging spirits and give her and Junuh's love a second chance.

The movies they're making

"THIRTEEN Days" is on the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, and shows the United States and JFK on the brink of nuclear war. **Bruce Greenwood**, a Canadian actor, plays the US president, and superstar **Kevin Costner** is on hand to give the film some box-office insurance. He plays Kennedy's assistant and his character has a strong hand in enabling the US to face up to the Russians—until they blink.

The latest on that "Charlie's Angels" movie sequel: director MCG wants the new trio of stars, **Drew Barrymore**, **Lucy Liu** and **Cameron Diaz**, to be joined by the original stars of the hit TV series.

Cyberbabe **Lara Croft** will go from computer-game heroine to live character in the film "Tomb Raider," due out this summer. Croft will be played by **Angelina Jolie**, who looks a lot like the popular computer action figure.

In "The Family Man," **Nicolas Cage** portrays a self-centered bachelor who wakes up one morning to find that he's a married man, with wife and kids. How he learns to love and care for them is the point of Cage's cinematic transformation.

On the local film front, **Lorna Tolentino** plays another potential award-winning role in "Abakada . . . Ina," **Eddie Garcia**'s comeback film as director after more than a decade. Lorna is cast as an illiterate who forces herself to learn how to read for the sake of her children. And, after her triumphant comeback with "Tanging Yaman," director **Laurice Guillen** has completed principal photography on "Magic Adobo" (alternate title, "American Adobo"), a film about Filipinos in the United States. The movie, which was shot in the States, is the first offering of **Tony Gloria**'s new movie company, Unitel Films.

WILL Smith (left) is the mysterious caddie Bagger Vance who hands a golf club to Matt Damon as Rannulph Junuh.

Animania on ABC-5

NEXT month, ABC-5 features the finest in Japanese animation in its Animania festival. The featured series include:

"Two Years Vacation with Dinosaur"—children are washed away by a storm to the planet Noa, a prehistoric world populated by dinosaurs and about to collide with another planet.

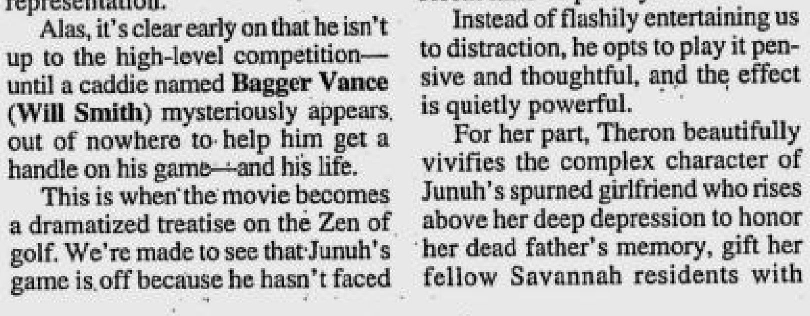
"Restol"—about a special rescue squad that travels through space to fight villains and save Third World countries.

"Sailormoon Sailorstars"—the latest adventures.

"Magical Stage Fancy Lala"—shy **Miho** meets little fairies who give her a magic pen and sketchbook that allow her to become teen singing idol **Lala**.

"Pygmalio"—Prince **Coult** and his mother have been turned into stone by the curse of the evil Medusa. How can they free themselves?

"Dragon League"—young hero **Tokyo** wants to make his father **Amon** human again, after he loses a soccer game and is turned into a dragon.


ALMA Moreno (middle) and the Kitkats.

Star-studded show set in Laoag City

ALMA Moreno leads a star-studded cast in a benefit musical variety show titled "Loveli-Ness through the Years" on Jan. 26 at the Ilocos Norte Centennial Arena in Laoag City.

The show also features Angelika de la Cruz, Eric Quizon, Alma's son Vandolph Quizon and her niece LJ Moreno. Her other children Yeoj and Win-wyn are also making an appearance.

Also in the show are Leonard Obal, Raffy Chan, Geleen Eugenio and the SOP Dancers and D' Kit-Kats.

The show is part of Alma's provincial tour which kicked off in November in Teatro Lahug in Cebu. Proceeds will go to Libre Libing Foundation which donates coffins to the dead of poor families in Parañaque City.

A highlight of the show is the awarding of special prizes to the male and female Star of the Night to be picked from among the audience.

The show is produced by Mark-V Production. For tickets, contact Debra at 0917-9797635 and 0917-4245106; Lylbee, 0919-8359002; Ricafort Trading in Laoag City on Gen. Sigundo Street, 770-3410 and 771-7624; and on Rizal Street, 771-7625 and 770-3409.

From 'Tuhog' to 'Aray!' Manunuri cites 2000 last-quarter standouts

CHITO Roño's "Laro sa Baga" (Regal Films), Tikoy Aguiluz's "Biyaheng Langit" (Viva Films), Jeffrey Jeturian's "Tuhog" (Good Harvest), Joel Lamangan's "Deathrow" (GMA Films), Laurice Guillen's "Tanging Yaman" (Star Cinema), and Gil Portes' "Markova" (RVQ Productions) lead the last quarter citations for 2000 of the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the society of film critics.

"Laro sa Baga," the filmization of Edgardo M. Reyes' novel, is cited for direction, screenplay (Reyes), cinematography (Neil Daza), editing (Manet Dayrit), production design (Michael Guizon), sound (Albert Michael Idioma), and performances (Carlos Morales, Angel Aquino and Monique Wilson.)

"Biyaheng Langit," a mordant look at the gambling culture, is cited for direction, screenplay (Aguiluz, Myrna Medina Bhunjun, Ianco de la Cruz, and Rey Ventura), cinematography (Romulo Araojo), production design (Ben Payumo), editing (Bhunjun), sound (Ramon Reyes) and performances (Mark Anthony Fernandez, Joyce Jimenez and Nida Blanca).

Although it has yet to be commercially released, "Tuhog," about an abused mother and her raped daughter who allow a movie to be made on their lives only to see their experience trivialized by insensitive filmmakers, qualified for the citations since it was shown in a special screening at the UP Film Center last year before a paying audience.

'Tuhog'

"Tuhog" is cited for direction, screenplay (Armando Lao), cinematography (Boy Yñiguez, Shane Clemente, and Sherman So), music (Jay Durias), editing (Ron Dale), production design (Ren Heritas), sound (Ross Diaz and Ric Loresto Jr.) and performances (Ina Raymundo, Klaudia Koronel, Jaclyn Jose, Irma Adlawan, Dante Rivero, and Nante Montreal).

The prison drama "Deathrow" is cited for direction, screenplay (Ricky Lee and Manny Palo), cinematography (Monino Duque), music (Ryan Cayabyab), editing (Kelly Cruz and Jess Navarro), production design (Joey Luna), sound (Albert Michael Idioma), and performances (Eddie Garcia, Cogie Domingo, Jaclyn Jose, Spanky Manikan, Pen Media, Rey Ventura, and Nanding Josef).

The moving religious melodrama "Tanging Yaman" is cited for direction, screenplay (Guillen, Shaira Mala Salvador, and Raymond Lee), cinematography (Videlle Meily), editing (George Jarlego), music (Nonong Buencamino), production design (Edgar Martin Littaua), sound (Ramon Reyes), and performances (Gloria Romero, Johnny Delgado, Dina Bonnevie, Edu Manzano, Hilda Koronel, Cherry Pie Picache, Jericho Rosales, and Janet MacBride).

"Markova," the poignant story of homosexual Walter Dempster Jr., who claimed to have been raped by Japanese Imperial soldiers in World War II, is cited for direction, screenplay (Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.), cinematography (Johnny Araojo), editing (George Jarlego), production design (Kaye Abaño), music (Joy Marfil), sound (Art Trofeo and Albert Michael Idioma), and performances (Dolphy, Eric Quizon, Jeffrey Quizon, and Joel Lamangan).

Maryo J. de los Reyes' "Gusto Ko Nang Lumigaya" (Regal Films), about a wife struggling in an unhappy marriage with her abusive, ambitious husband, is cited for direction, screenplay (Lualhati Bautista), cinematography (Richard Padernal), editing, and performances (Pops Fernandez and Bojo Molina).

Domestic drama

Jose Javier Reyes' quiet domestic drama "Sugatang Puso" (Regal Films) is cited for direction and screenplay (Reyes), cinematography (Eduardo Jacinto), music (Jess Lucas), and performances (Lorna Tolentino, Christopher de Leon, Patrick Garcia, Cherie Gil, and Carlo Aquino).

Roño's fantasy thriller "Spirit Warriors" (Regal Films) is cited for direction, cinematography (Neil Daza), editing (Manet Dayrit), music (Jesse Lasaten), production design (Elmer Bais), and sound (Albert Michael Idioma).

Gilbert Perez's "Kahit Isang Saglit" (Star Cinema), an unusual love triangle between a girl, her fiancé's best friend, and her dead fiancé, is cited for direction and per-

FROM 'TUHOG'/ A29

From 'Tuhog' . . .

(From page A28)

formances (Piolo Pascual, Judy Ann Santos, and Leandro Munoz).

Actress Maricel Soriano is cited for Lamangan's "Abandonada" (Viva Films), about an abandoned nurse who battles her husband for the custody of their son, while Ana Capri is cited for the sex drama Don Escudero's "Aray!"

Agustin "Hammy" Sotto, the founding president of the Society of Film Archivists, is chair of Manunuri. Vice chair is Mario Hernando, editor of Sunday Malaya, member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, and lecturer of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters.

Members are Gigi Javier-Alfonso, dean of the UP-Diliman Open University and professor at the UP College of Mass Communication (UP-CMC); TV personality Butch Francisco; Bienvenido Lumbera, 1993 Ramon Magsaysay awardee for journalism, literature and creative communication; Ellen Paglinauan, dean of UP-CMC; Bro. Mike Rapatan, F.S.C., chair of the Department of Communication of De la Salle University; Nicanor Tiongson, editor of the film journal Pelikula and former artistic director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines; Rolando Tolentino, author and professor of film at UP-CMC; and Lito Zulueta, INQUIRER sub-editor and faculty member of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters.

The Manunuri is now finalizing nominations for the 23rd Gawad Urian.

Monster Radio award

OGIE Alcasid is turning out to be the most awarded performer this past year. After winning the Awit Awards for song of the year and best ballad recording, Ogie wins the RX 93.1 Award for best male artist of the year (OPM) for his best-selling album under MCA Universal, "Now and Then."

The award was presented to Ogie on Jan. 7 in his toprating Sunday variety show, "SOP," on GMA-7.

Meanwhile, Ogie is busy preparing for his concert, "Up Close," Jan. 26 at the PICC Plenary Hall. His special guest is Regine Velasquez.

By the end of the month, Ogie will also release his own version of "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," the hit song he composed for Regine.

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6	ULTRA SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
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1	
3	SUPER IDOL

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	RED PLANET
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	LITTLE NICKY
4	HIGHLANDER
5	KANGKONG

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3	SUPER IDOL
4	RED PLANET
5	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
6	HIGHLANDER

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3	SUPER IDOL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3 (DTS)	SUPER IDOL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 (DTS)	SUPER IDOL
3 (DOLBY)	RED PLANET
4	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	RED PLANET
2	SUPER IDOL
3	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
4 (DTS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	SUPER IDOL
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 (DTS)	RED PLANET
4	LOST SOULS
5	KANGKONG

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	RED PLANET
3	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	RED PLANET
3	MEET THE PARENTS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	[illegible]
2	
3	KANGKONG

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
2	RED PLANET
3	SUPER IDOL

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	RED PLANET
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	SUPER IDOL
4	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1 (DTS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 (DTS)	SUPER IDOL

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SUPER IDOL
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	KANGKONG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	RED PLANET
2	SUGATANG PUSO
3	UNBREAKABLE
4	THE 6TH DAY

Berma
tel 879.2188

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

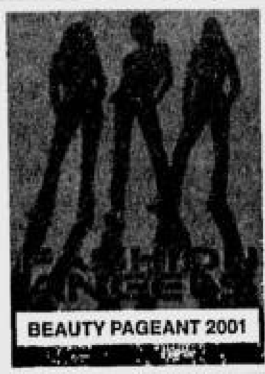
1	SUPER IDOL
2	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	RED PLANET

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	MEET THE PARENTS
2	TANGING YAMAN
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4 (DTS EX)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

*Movies [illegible] to change without [illegible] notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS



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NOW SHOWING

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ERMITA 536-7809-14

① THE RED PLANET
② THE 6TH DAY
③ BALAHIBONG PUSA
④ REMEMBER THE TITANS
⑤ HIGHLANDER
⑥ LITTLE NICKY
⑦ MEET THE PARENTS

GALLERIA

UNDER RENOVA[illegible]

Robinsons Movieworld aims to [illegible]
a new dimension to your viewing exper[illegible]
10 brand new cinemas equipped w[illegible]
THX, DTS, SDDS, DOLBY DIGITAL so[illegible]

IMUS (046)475-3838

① THE RED PLANET
② REMEMBER THE TITANS
③ SUPER IDOL
④ LITTLE NICKY
⑤ HIGHLANDER
⑥ BALAHIBONG PUSA

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

① MEET THE PARENTS
② TANGING YAMAN
③ EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
④ CROCODILES
⑤ GATAS
⑥ EX-CON

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	TANGING YAMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	HIGHLANDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	RED PLANET
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	LITTLE NICKY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	RED PLANET
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	KANGKONG
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	BALAHIBONG PUSA
MIRAMAR	KATAYAN / BODY TO BODY
ODEON	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ODEON-2	RED PLANET
ROBEN	KANGKONG
TANDEM-1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
TANDEM-2	NAGHUHUMIYAW
TIMES	WHAT LIES BENEATH / ANACONDA 2000
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SA IYO ANG SARAP SA IYO ANG LIGAYA
ACT-2	ARAYY
ACT-3	HIRAM NA KATAWAN
ACT-4	BIRADOR
CORONET-2	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
QUEZON-1	KANGKONG
REMAR	BALAHIBONG PUSA
REMAR-2	KANGKONG
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
OCEAN CINEMA-A	LARO SA BAGA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	GUEVARRA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-2	THE 6TH DAY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-04091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KANGKONG
CINEMA-2	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-3	DEATH ROW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-7	SPIRIT WARRIORS
CINEMA-8	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
CINEMA-12	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-14	GATAS
CINEMA-15	TANGING YAMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-3	THE 6TH DAY
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-2	RED PLANET
CINEMA-3	HIGHLANDER
CINEMA-4	LITTLE NICKY
CINEMA-5	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-6	REMEMBER THE TITANS

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Carrie Anne Moss
Tom Sizemore

January 19 - Friday
6:30 PM - Red Planet
8:50 PM - Red Planet
11:10 PM - Red Planet

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Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly with the UP College of Mass Communication.

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

A story for those who have had a failed relationship

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

ONE of my goals this year is to read a wider variety of fiction and expand my reading list from my usual suspense and legal thrillers.

I just finished reading **Steve Martin**'s novella, "Shopgirl." It is a beautifully written, insightful look at the intentions of a man and a woman when they're embarking on a relationship, the ups and downs and inequalities of the relationship, and the permanent imprint its demise leaves behind.

The author is Steve Martin the actor. (I'm admittedly sappy, I love his "Father of the Bride 1 and 2," the best among his numerous films.)

The protagonists of his tale are **Mirabella**, the 28-year-old woman of the title who works behind the Neiman Marcus glove counter, and **Ray Porter**, a divorced millionaire in his early fifties.

Mirabella struggles not only financially but also from bouts of depression. Ray struggles with a desire to have all the benefits and comfort of a relationship, and the unwillingness to commit wholeheartedly.

In a supporting role is **Jeremy**, a man two years younger than Mirabella and whom she met at the laundromat even before Ray came into her life. Jeremy will eventually grow into his potential and be the perfect, "mismatched" partner for Mirabella, the kind who reciprocates the depth of her feelings, and who's in it for keeps.

Ray makes no excuses regarding his intentions with Mirabella. He makes it clear from the onset of their courtship that he isn't prepared for an exclusive relationship, and that he intends to date and sleep with other women (which in fact he does). He knows he won't be with her for long, and so he helps her out by paying off her $40,000 student loan and her accruing credit card bill which has reached the $12,000 mark, and upgrades her car with a newer model.

These gifts, although generous, are also meant to assuage his guilt, and serve as an assurance that she'll be in a better place when he finally exits her life.

At its closing, "Shopgirl" brought tears to my eyes. Martin's insights into the foibles, pitfalls and mistaken notions of loving are evocative of a man who has been through his share of hurting another and also of being broken in the course of living.

I quote a line from Ray's thoughts after he himself has met someone who "stumbled into his life, forever altered it . . . touches his heart and then breaks it flat," which all of us who have a failed relationship behind us will surely identify with.

"Only then does he realize what he has done to Mirabella, how wanting a square inch of her and not all of her has damaged them both, and how he cannot justify his actions except that, well, it was life."

In March, for the first time, Steve Martin hosts the Oscars. He is an exceptionally intelligent comedian, and I can't wait for him to take over the emceeing chores.

On a gossipy note, right before **Anne Heche** started her three-year, recently-ended love affair with **Ellen de Generes**, she was Martin's girlfriend. In an Esquire magazine cover feature on Martin, friends went on record to state how deeply he had fallen for Anne, and how wounded he was after their break-up.

I wonder how much of Heche's personality influenced Martin's characterization of Mirabella?

***

Allow me to end this piece with a thank-you.

Mrs. **Crispa Geli**, a 46-year-old mother of five and a government employee from Surigao del Sur, sent me a heartwarming and witty letter through Philippine Daily Inquirer. The INQUIRER in Surigao is P25 a copy, but she subscribes to the paper to insure that she'll be able to read this column on Mondays and Fridays. With four of her kids still in school, the extra expense puts a strain on their household budget. Her officemates tease her that at her age, she still made the effort to write a "fan" letter.

Mrs. Geli, I will take your advice regarding finding the "right man, at the right time." *Opo, "maghihintay-hintay lang po ako dahil malay ko nga, baka nandiyan na siya."* Your affection for me is not only appreciated but treasured.

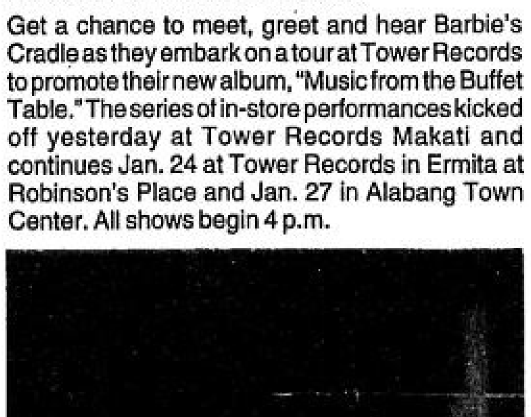
* * *

By the time you read this, I would have already finished hosting, along with my "soul mate" **Boy Abunda**, Thursday afternoon's women's *merienda* hosted by my mom for Vice President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**.

Boy and I are supposed to facilitate the open forum where all the women would be allowed to question GMA regarding anything and everything they wished for her to shed light on. I'll give you the inside scoop and sidelights of that gathering on Monday.

BARBIE'S CRADLE TOUR

Get a chance to meet, greet and hear Barbie's Cradle as they embark on a tour at Tower Records to promote their new album, "Music from the Buffet Table." The series of in-store performances kicked off yesterday at Tower Records Makati and continues Jan. 24 at Tower Records in Ermita at Robinson's Place and Jan. 27 in Alabang Town Center. All shows begin 4 p.m.



PACO'S 'REBIRTH'

Making a bold step to pop stardom is former Introvoys drummer Paco Arespacochaga, who releases a solo album, "Rebirth," under Unigram label of MCA Universal. The album carries compositions that speak about Paco's sentiments, the failures he went through, the trials he overcame, and the happiness and contentment as a person and as an artist he aspires for. The album takes off with the carrier single, "Mahagkan Ka Sana," composed by Vehnee Saturno. "Rebirth" also marks a reunion of Paco with the Introvoys who joins him in the revival track, "I Will Survive." Paco duets with his ex-wife, Geneva Cruz, in the song, "In the Rain."

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*Dine-in price subject to 10% service charge.
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2001
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▪ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Equitable PCI
BANK
MEMBER PDIC
BancNet

4 groups offer to buy Equitable

By Clarissa S. Batino

SPAIN'S biggest bank, a foreign venture capital, and two giant local banks backed by foreign lenders have submitted buy-in proposals to the beleaguered Equitable PCI Bank.

The bids will be discussed in today's special board meeting of the country's third-largest lender.

Aside from Banco Santander Central Hispano SA, the other groups that have formally made a bid for Equitable PCI are Newbridge Capital Inc., the Metrobank Group backed by Tokai Bank of Tokyo, and Bank of the Philippine Islands with Development Bank of Singapore as partner.

"The proposals vary from a straight purchase to a share swap. These would be evaluated by Equitable's board," a top government source said.

Stockholders of Equitable, including the Go family and two state pension funds, are reportedly willing to sell their combined interests.

Equitable president Wilfrido Vergara earlier said that another option was for a foreign investor to buy 20 to 35 percent of the bank to generate between P12 billion and P15 billion.

The fresh infusion could help restore the bank's financial health that was significantly affected by withdrawals after it was allegedly used by impeached President Estrada to maintain a secret account.

Vergara said the other options to strengthen the bank included the entry of a foreign partner, a merger with a local bank, or both.

Banco Santander is keen on expanding its local base. The bank currently owns 60 percent of Banco Santander Philippines, a commercial bank, and it intends to buy out its local partners.

Banco Santander Philippines has assets of P6.5 billion and capital of P2.5 billion. Other owners are the Mampayag Holdings and the Davila family with 20 percent while the remaining 20 percent is held in a trust account of BPI.

US-based Newbridge Capital Inc. has diversified interests from energy to banking and has a Singapore-based subsidiary.

Second-largest Metrobank is reportedly tying up anew with Tokai Bank for its bid to buy Equitable. The two lenders, under a 60-40 deal in favor of the local giant, own Global Business Bank where Metrobank's other acquisitions such as Asian Bank and Philippine Banking Corp. were merged.

DBS of Singapore, which owns about 28 percent of BPI, has offered to help the country's largest bank fund its acquisition of Equitable.

Even after confirming its interest, Yuchengco-controlled Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. has yet to submit its proposal to buy part of the country's third-largest lender.

After buying Far East Bank in 1999, BPI of the Ayala Group had emerged as the country's largest bank with assets of more than P310 billion and deposit base of about P240 billion.

Its acquisition of Equitable would increase its asset base by P255 billion and its deposits by P160 billion. The Metrobank Group controlled by George Ty ranks second with assets of about P300 billion and deposits of more than P231 billion.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said an acquisition by BPI or Metrobank would create a local giant that could compete with regional players.

The American Insurance Group, which was earlier reported to be interested in Equitable, had denied its interest.

The Go family owns about 30 percent of Equitable. The Social Security System holds about 25 percent while the Government Service Insurance System owns 12 percent.

Neda exec quits; gov't sticks to growth targets

By Doris C. Dumlao

RUPERTO Alonzo, deputy director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, has tendered his irrevocable resignation effective Monday.

Still, Economic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla yesterday said the government would stick to its economic targets this year despite the fresh complications arising from the latest twists in the impeachment trial at the Senate.

Medalla also stressed yesterday he was not resigning from his post. This was amid a walkout staged by hundreds of employees of the National Economic and Development Authority who later on joined the mass actions at the Edsa shrine.

The government's economic program for 2001—including a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 3 to 3.5 percent—assumes that the Senate would be able to come up with an acceptable verdict on the Estrada trial within the first quarter of the year.

In an interview yesterday, Medalla said it was still premature to think of any change in the economic targets despite the unexpected snag in the impeachment process because some sectors of the economy remained resilient to the current crisis.

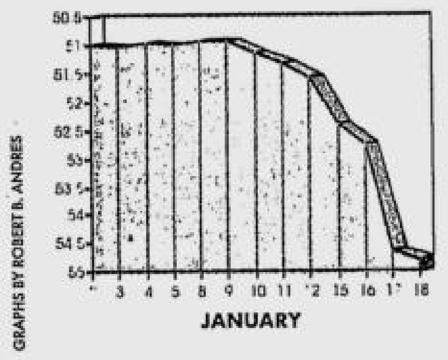
He said that despite the sharp free fall of the peso

NEDA/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

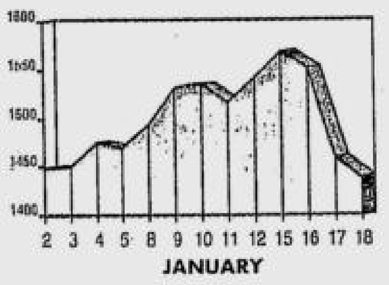
₱54.79 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 18, 2001

¥119.12 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 119.12 as of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 18, 2001

GOLD:$263.50/264.00
per ounce Hong Kong,
Jan. 18, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks fall 1.4%

SHARE prices closed 1.4 percent lower yesterday due to continued turmoil over the stalled corruption trial of President Estrada, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 20.42 points to 1,438.21.

"The process seems to be dangling, that's why people are on the sidelines and the (protest) rallies are still there, so you really have a standstill," said Harry Liu, head of Summit Securities Inc.

The Senate, which is conducting a graft trial of Mr. Estrada, adjourned its hearings indefinitely on Wednesday after the prosecutors walked out on Tuesday, charging the senator-judges with bias toward Mr. Estrada. *AFP*

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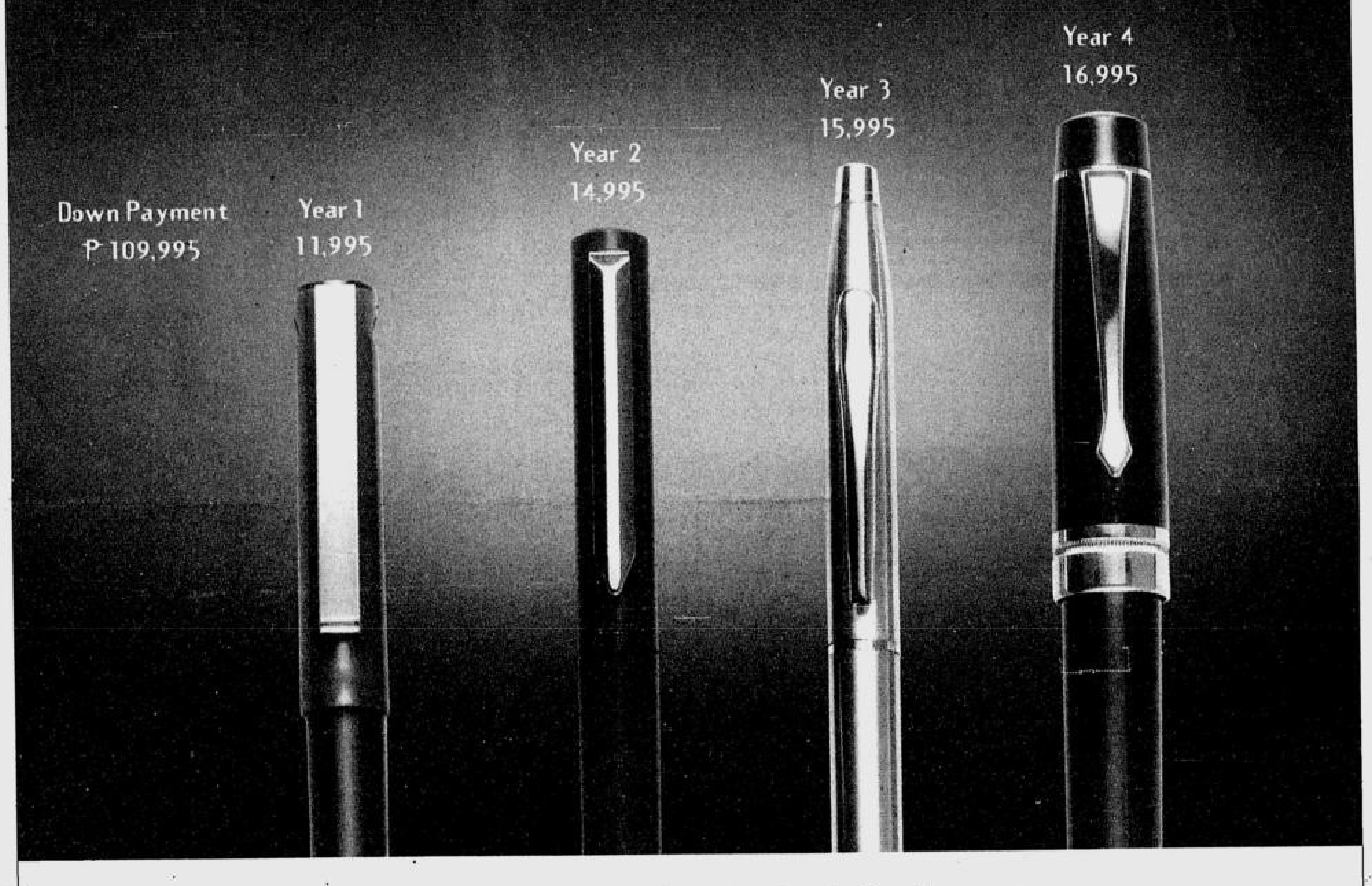

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1.6 GSi A/T	115,995	12,995	15,995	16,995	17,995
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Ford Davao, Ongpin Bldg., Km. 4 J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City [illegible]
Ford Makati, 2287 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City 1231; Trunk Line. 818-5555; Fax Nos.: 815-0513 / 898-5555

UNIVERSAL REINSURANCE CORPORATION
SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
As of December 31, 1998

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	P	212,583,500.00
Treasury Bills		154,310,000.00
Stocks		172,799,333.10
Real Estate		107,872,448.37
Mortgage Loans		64,621,173.01
Collateral Loans		4,062,500.00
Other Loans		7,759,535.72
Security Fund		69,715.23
Other Investments		10,535,839.69
Cash in Office and in Banks		122,262,316.14
Due From Ceding Companies		51,602,341.10
Funds Held by Ceding Companies		82,862,869.63
Loss Reserve Withheld by		2,958,788.83
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses		143,214,647.48
Accrued Investment Income		4,567,068.68
EDP		2,181,016.30
Total Admitted Assets	P	1,144,263,093.28

LIABILITIES

Losses and Claims Payable	P	361,986,182.99
Reserve for Unearned Premium		119,123,099.04
Premiums Due to Reinsurers		149,930,095.64
Funds Held for Reinsurers		66,832,700.50
Catastrophe Loss Reserve		2,833,482.91
Taxes Payable		826,333.25
Accrued Expenses		2,436,631.06
Accounts Payable		907,145.86
Unearned Bond Discount		4,497,076.15
Total Liabilities	P	709,372,747.40

NETWORTH

Capital Stock	P 328,022,880.00	
Retained Earnings	106,867,465.88	
Networth		434,890,345.88
Total Liabilities and Networth		P 1,144,263,093.28

(This Synopsis, prepared from the 1998 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended.)

ADVT.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, January 18, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	58.5	57	58	1,417,600
China Banking Corp.	730	730	730	730	10
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	54	54	53	53.5	42,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	175	175	170	170	233,120
Philippine National Bank	36	37.5	36	37.5	220,000
Phil. Savings Bank	30	30	30	30	700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	45,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1370	1390	1355	1375	4,930
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1190	1225	1190	1225	18,820
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	45	45.5	45	45	110,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.43	0.46	0.42	0.46	920,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	670	670	2,490
Piltel	0.54	0.55	0.51	0.51	170,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.38	0.47	0.38	0.47	750,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	860	875	860	870	187,960
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.031	0.033	51,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	46	46	45.5	45.5	13,000
Manila Electric Co. B	47.5	48	46	47.5	3,385,400
Petron Corp.	1.16	1.22	1.16	1.2	2,797,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	430,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.34	2.34	2.3	2.3	33,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	35,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	80,700
Pancake House Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	21,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	100	100	100	100	2,700
RFM Corp.	0.95	0.96	0.86	0.86	260,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	49	48	48.5	774,700
San Miguel Corp. B	55	56.5	54.5	56.5	561,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	407,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7	7	6.9	6.9	7,257,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.25	11.5	3,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	40,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	11	11	11	11	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.75	2.85	2.65	2.75	6,162,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.165	220,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.7	0.7	40,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	53,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
Ionics Inc.	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	503,600
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.77	0.73	0.77	1,100,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.115	0.13	0.115	0.115	1,520,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.54	0.56	0.54	0.55	5,970,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	2,240,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	3,880,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	70,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	2,000
Music Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.85	156,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	500,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.2	7.9	7.2	7.8	25,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.57	0.59	0.54	0.54	7,790,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	90,000
BONDS PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	44	44.5	44	44	2,583,900
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1,118,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	555	555	555	555	50
Equitable PCI Bank-War	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	14,000
Jollibee Warrants	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	226,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	45,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala-Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.4	13,919,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	160,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.19	1,170,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	80,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	12,880,000
Filinvest Land, Inc.	1.34	1.36	1.32	1.34	8,867,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.4	45,255,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	2,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	200,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	30,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	80,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0034	0.0032	0.0034	93,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	100,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	27,000,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	3,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	190,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,062,680	162,027,580.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	150,768,100	615,350,640.00
PRO	82,551,000	336,551,070.00
Mining	95,410,000	355,550.00
OIL	30,190,000	192,100.00
GRAND TOTALS :	360,981,780	1,114,476,940.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	535.03	DOWN	4.75
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,037.25	DOWN	11.63
PRO	490.46	DOWN	20.24
Mining	1,218.51	UP	2.62
OIL	1.77	UP	0.02
All Shares Index	783.96	UP	3.74
Composite	1,438.21	DOWN	20.42

NO. OF ADVANCES: 16; NO. OF DECLINES: 39; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 28; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 83; NO. OF TRADES: 2,824

DISCLOSURES

THE LISTING of 5,593 common shares of **Jollibee Foods Corp.** availed under the tandem stock purchase and option plan is set for Jan. 19. This brings the number of common shares listed under the said plan to a total of 656,243 common shares.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Primetown Property Group Inc.** accepted the resignation of lawyer Allan Gepty as corporate secretary and elected lawyer Felisberto Valerio as his replacement. Also accepted was the resignation of Angeline May Yap and Colleen Yap as directors. Elected as their replacements were Verano and Thelma Rodriguez.

* * *

PNOC Exploration Corp. confirmed that for the year 2001, it has allocated a budget of close to P2.5 billion as its share for its 10-percent participating interest in service contract No. 38, particularly the development of the Malampaya gas field, and including the extended production test for the oil firm.

* * *

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **Bank of the Philippine Islands** has been moved to April 19. It will be held at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati at 9 a.m.

* * *

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. said that while it has not received any information or offer from Equitable PCI Bank or any of its major shareholders, it would be interested to take a look at an opportunity to expand its business via an acquisition or merger.

* * *

THE BOARD of Investments approved **Diversified Financial Network Inc.**'s application for registration on a pioneer status.

* * *

GLOBE Telecom Inc. will hold an investor's briefing today, 2:30 p.m., at the Ballroom 1 and 2 of the Mandarin Hotel, Makati.

Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

Jan. 18, 2001 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.068376	1.000000	54.8080
Japan	Yen	0.008983	0.008408	0.4608
United Kingdom	Pound	1.574679	1.473900	80.7815
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.136976	0.128210	7.0269
Switzerland	Franc	0.650418	0.608791	33.3666
Canada	Dollar	0.707346	0.662076	36.2871
Singapore	Dollar	0.616134	0.576701	31.6078
Australia	Dollar	0.588670	0.550995	30.1989
Bahrain	Dinar	2.834040	2.652661	145.3870
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.284847	0.266617	14.6127
Brunei	Dollar	0.614893	0.575540	31.5442
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000106	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.024725	0.023143	1.2684
UAE	Dirham	0.290905	0.272287	14.9235
Korea	Won	0.000837	0.000783	0.0429
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.936000	51.3003
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.478569	26.2294
France	Franc	0.152450	0.142692	7.8207
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.424768	23.2790
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.068022	3.7281
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.023203	1.2717
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000483	0.0265
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.157424	8.6281
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004669	0.2559
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005625	0.3083
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.023203	1.2717
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.188475	65.1379

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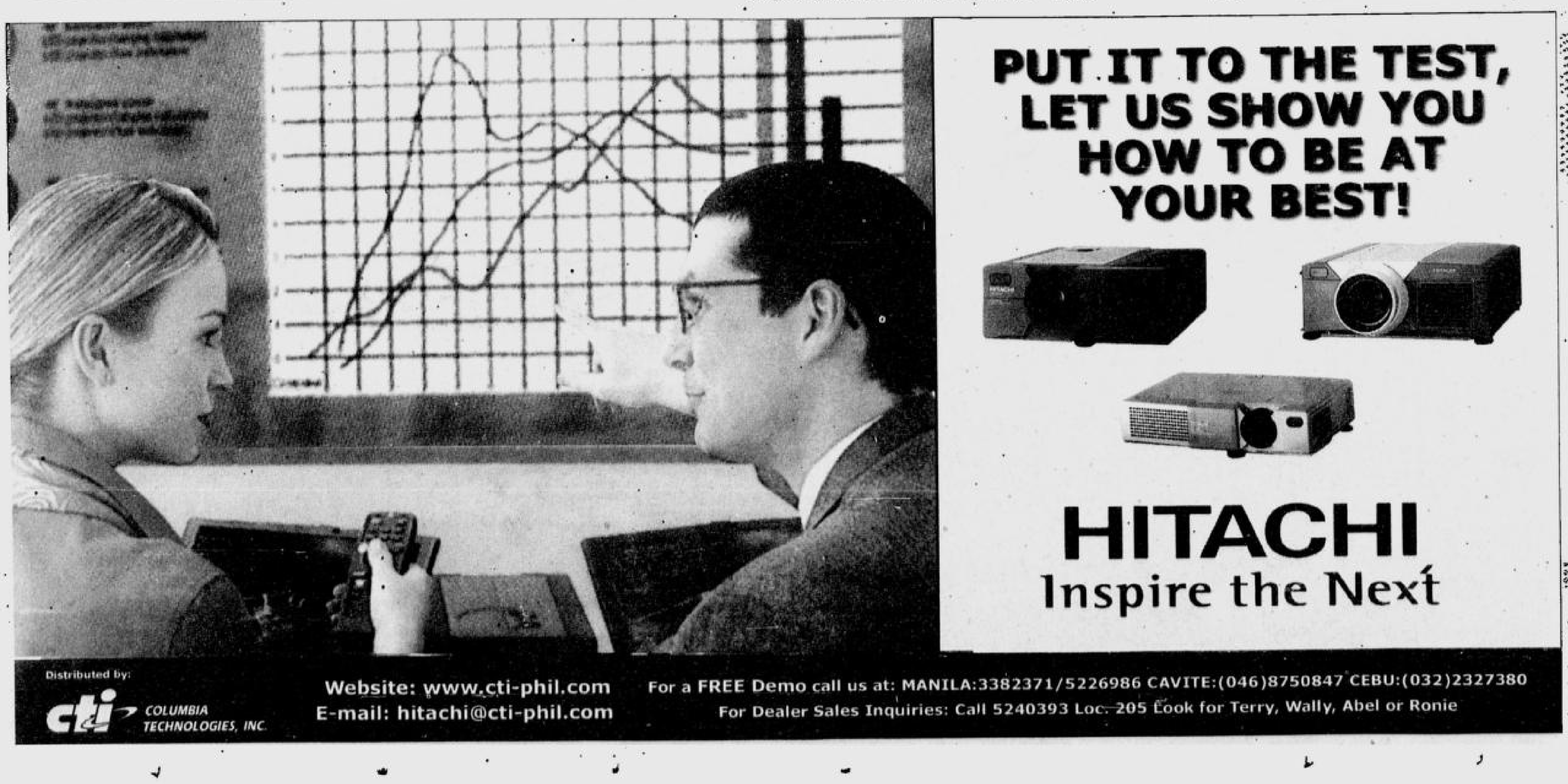
Its services include airline travel reservations and ticketing, local and international packaged tours, airline ticket re-validation and re-routing, hotel and other transport reservations, transport arrangements, travel planning, and emergency assistance.

PricewaterhouseCoopers will be running a controlled process in the sale of the minority interest in this company. Additional information is available upon request. To receive the Information Memorandum, you will first be required to sign a confidentiality undertaking with the company.

Interested parties should contact Mr. Marfred Pranada by January 31, 2001 at the address and numbers listed below.

Marfred J. Pranada
Vice President
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Financial Advisors, Inc.
14th Floor Multinational
Bancorporation Centre
6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City,
Metro Manila
Telephone Number (632) 845-2728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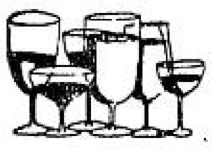
AY's Edsa crisis

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

THE YUCHENGCO Group of Companies will celebrate taipan Alfonso Yuchengco's 78th birthday on Feb. 5, on the eve of his birth date, with the inauguration of the gleaming RCBC Plaza.

But the dramatic turn of events since the "Juetengate" scandal erupted have thrown the organizers into a protocular crisis of Edsa proportions.

Drawn long before Jose Velarde became a household byword, the who's-who in the guest list are headed by no less than President Joseph Estrada, Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Jaime Cardinal Sin.

The two have already confirmed their participation, although there is no word yet whether Mr. Estrada would want to break bread with his tormentors.

But given the unbridgeable political divide among the principal players, how do you now put inaugural scissors on their hands without anyone entertaining homicidal thoughts about his/her fellow guest?

And, by the way, do you know what the centerpiece of the inaugural rites is?

A tank surrounded by jubilant civilians, a Spirit of Edsa tribute executed no less by Eduardo Castrillo, right there on the building's open-air plaza.

Are the Yuchengcos sending a not-so-subliminal message to you-know-who?

Davide for president

DISILLUSIONED Miriam Defensor-Santiago supporter, columnist Antonio Abaya, is conducting a poll on the possibility of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. becoming an interim president and as presidential candidate in 2004.

The survey, a project of TAPATT Foundation, one of the 24 complainants in the impeachment case, may be accessed through the Internet at www.tapatt.org.

We first heard of the Davide-for-president stirrings more than a year ago, when Chavit Singson and Atong Ang were still the best of buddies and the Midnight Cabinet were still on their merry bacchanalian sprees.

It was former PCCG Chair Magtanggol Guinigundo who broached back then that there were some individuals pushing for the Chief Justice's candidacy in the still distant 2004.

With his conduct of the impeachment trial, the Chief Justice has certainly gained wide acclaim among the NGOs and the general populace fed up with the traditional politicians.

Garbage in, garbage out

SEN. Loren Legarda-Leviste's speech against dumping of Metro Manila garbage on Semirara Island has unfortunately hit her husband where it hurts most, the pocket.

Unknown to the senator, her husband, BOI Governor Antonio Leviste, was negotiating a deal with Economic Flagship Adviser Robert Aventajado and Metro Manila Chair Jejomar Binay, offering the Levistes' 2,000-hectare property in the outback of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, as alternate landfill.

(To give you an idea how large 2,000 hectares is, the whole of Makati measures about 600 hectares.)

The property would have been ideal. Unlike the Semirara's landfill of 55 hectares, the Mindoro site is 36-times larger, has a three-kilometer wide beach frontage, and, more important, has no neighbors and powerful business groups that would object.

The Mindoro site is also midway between Manila and Semirara, which should slash transport cost by half.

To make a long story short, the senator got wind of her husband's negotiations, had a word with him, which resulted in the Batangueño macho meekly withdrawing in what could have been a multi-million windfall.

Short takes

• AFTER profusely thanking Rina Jimenez-David for her column that allowed her story be told in regard to the nasty Erap rumors, Davao hotel executive Marla Poblete-Almendras has, in a bizarre twist of events, filed a libel complaint against the INQUIRER columnist.

The complaint was filed all the way in Davao City, of course.

• WITH the Senate impeachment trial grounding to a sudden halt and the fresh eruption of protest actions, the major foreign TV and cable networks, papers, and news magazines have flown their correspondents back to Manila.

• THE FIRST letters of the surnames of the 11 senators who voted against opening the second Jose Velarde envelope reads, would you believe, JOSE COHORTS or JOE'S COHORTS.

Heard through the grapevine

PLDT's Manuel V. Pangilinan had an inkling that his name was going to crop up in the bank documents contained in the second envelope submitted by Equitable PCI Bank.

He was ready to testify and explain the P20-million pay-to-cash check had the Senate impeachment court summoned him.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

NISSAN FRONTIER HOLDS NO. 1 POSITION

Nissan Frontier powers its way to the top spot as the year 2000 ends based on reports submitted by members of the Truck Manufacturer's Association (TMA). Frontier pickups continue to achieve market leadership as it dominated sales in the double cab compact pickup segment with an impressive 30.4% market share and a combined sales of 2,326 units for the 4x2 and 4x4 categories by the end of the year 2000. It has outpaced Isuzu which holds 22.9% share of the aforementioned market segment and total sales of 1,749 units.

The Frontier pickup maintains its assurance of power, styling and convenience as it likewise lays claim to the No. 1 title in the 4x2 double cab compact pickup category with a market share of 33.0% with 1,448 units and achieved a strong 2nd position in the 4x4 double cab compact pickup category with 878 units or a market share of 27.0%.

Equipped with the biggest engine displacement in its class (2.7-L and 3.2-L diesel), the Frontier is the only compact pickup available in both manual and automatic transmission for both 4x2 and 4x4 variants, a remarkable first in the market. The Frontier is also the most fully equipped in safety features with a driver-side airbag, Zone Body Concept featuring both crushable and safety zones, side impact beams, front and rear seatbelts and a Load Sensing Valve (LSV) for balanced breaking.

Indeed, the Nissan Frontier boasts of a host of features and benefits that make it the number one choice in the market. It is evident that the Frontier Pickup has become a dependable and popular choice because of its stylish look, ultimate safety and convenience and exceptional performance. Elevating the standards for the local compact pickup market is the reason behind the Nissan Frontier's consistent market leadership.

Still available in the market at hold-over November 2000 price levels, the Nissan Frontier 4x2 standard is sold at P 648,000.00; the 4x2 Nissan Frontier elite MT costs P704,000.00 and P 790,000.00 for the automatic variant. Powerful off-road capabilities combined with car-like comfort in the 4x4 Nissan Frontier MT is priced at P950,000.00 while the AT variant is P990,000.00. Sporting a new solarized silver color, the 4x4 Nissan Frontier Silver Edition, on the other hand, costs P 1.005M for the MT and P 1.045M for AT.

The Nissan Frontier is exclusively distributed by Universal Motors Corporation, Philippine assembler and distributor of Nissan light commercial and recreational vehicles.

ADVT.

BSP keeps rates steady

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday decided to keep overnight interest rates unchanged as the peso continued to weaken past the 55-to-$1 level.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the policy-making Monetary Board's decision indicated that monetary authorities would not use interest rates this time to defend the peso.

He noted the peso's volatility since Wednesday, the day after the Senate rejected the move to open a bank envelope that would help convict impeached President Estrada, was purely sentiment-driven.

The peso dramatically declined to a day low of 55.75 to $1 last Wednesday although it closed at a new record low of P54.625 to $1.

Buenaventura said the BSP was still keen on bringing interest rates lower within the year although not at the moment when political instability seemed to be at its peak.

"We will have to wait for the decision of the US Federal Reserve before we could make our move. But we can't bring it (rates) too low because of the deficit," the central bank governor said.

This means the key policy rates of the central bank would stay at 12.5 percent for overnight borrowing and 14.75 percent for overnight lending for the meantime.

The US Fed would meet by the end of the month to assess whether there was still room for short-term interest rates to go down further. Buenaventura said the US Fed intended to bring down rates by about 1 percentage point within the first quarter of the year.

"It would be nice if we could also cut rates by 1 percentage point within the quarter," he said.

The central bank chief said the BSP still has room to bring down rates to 12 percent, possibly even 11 percent, within the year. Consequently, overnight lending could go down to 14.25 percent or even 13.25 percent.

Last Friday, monetary authorities brought down rates by another 50 basis points, bringing the total cuts since early December to 2.5 percentage points.

The central bank had raised rates by 4 percentage points in October last year following the negative impact of the "Juetengate" scandal on investor confidence as reflected by the peso's depreciation.

Allegations that Mr. Estrada had received more than P400 million in jueteng payoffs and P130 million in kickbacks from tobacco taxes pulled down the peso to 51.48 to $1 in Oct. 30.

Neda exec . . .

(From page B1)

past the 55:$1 level, consumer demand was still expected to rise by 2.7 percent this year and the agriculture sector by 2 to 3 percent.

"Together with that, services are expected to grow by 3 1/2 percent even in the worst of times. As long as there is no visible violence and military adventurism, then there is no need to change targets yet," he said.

Gross national product, on the other hand, is now expected to hit a lower growth range of 3.2 to 3.7 percent from the original target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent. On the other hand, inflation is seen to rise this year to a range of 6.5 to 7.5 percent from the initial target of 5.5 to 6.5 percent.

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NAIA RADAR SYSTEM

DOTC gets aid from Japan

By Anthony O. Alcantara

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications has obtained ¥1.322 billion in financial assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency for the procurement and installation of a terminal radar system at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The DOTC, in a report, said that the project, called the Manila Terminal Approach Radar Control (Tracon), would replace the terminal radar system at the Naia.

The system covers the airport surveillance radar, secondary surveillance radar and the terminal radar data processing and display system. The Tracon project will help ensure the safety and improve efficiency in air traffic control.

The transport department also said there were moves initiated last year for the development of other airports under the Nationwide Air Navigation Facilities Modernization Projects-Phase III.

"Proper attention is also given to the equally important aspect of airways management. Toward this end, we are upgrading and modernizing our air traffic control and air navigation facilities at 25 selected airports and sites," the report said.

Other airports being upgraded to meet international standards are: the Laoag International Airport, Tacloban Airport, Puerto Princesa Airport, Cotabato Airport, Butuan Airport, Dipolog Airport, Pagadian Airport and Sanga-Sanga Airport.

"These airports are to be developed with financial assistance from bilateral and multilateral sources. All other national airports are being developed and maintained to comply with operational safety requirements using locally appropriated funds," said the DOTC.

Last December, the DOTC said it would invest P3.48 billion for the construction of a new airport in Silay City and the upgrading of the airport in Tacloban City in the Visayas in the light of the increasing traffic demand in these areas.

The bidding for the Japan-funded project will be held early this year so that construction can begin by the middle of 2001.

Upon the completion of the new airport in Silay City, the old airport in Bacolod City would be closed. The construction of the new airport will be under the OECF.

The undertaking involves the acquisition of 180 hectares of land; the construction of airside facilities such as runways and landside facilities; the construction of a control tower, crash-fire rescue building and administrative building, and the provision of air navigational equipment and facilities.

The procurement of airport maintenance and security equipment, the fire fighting vehicles for the Tacloban and Bacolod airports and the resurfacing of the Tacloban airport runway will also be funded by the OECF.

Davide's commitment to due process

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

IT was unfortunate that Senators Francisco Tatad and Juan Ponce Enrile, and nine other senators preempted Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and prevented him from ruling on the issue of opening the second envelope. Had it not been for that, the Chief Justice could have ruled and we expect his ruling to be different. The thrust of historical events would have been otherwise.

During the impeachment trial, Chief Justice Davide consistently ruled according to what was just and in accordance with the law. Nobody was allowed to play games or make a mockery of the proceedings.

On one hand, he was quick to overrule objections that tended to prevent the truth from coming out. On the other hand, he sustained objections if he thought that these would speed up the impeachment trial.

Chief Justice Davide's uncompromising fidelity to the law was matched only by his firm commitment to due process. But at the end of the day, the impeachment process turned out to be more of a numbers game. The no's had it by a slim vote of 11 to 10.

Although the Chief Justice remained faithful to his lawyer's oath to uphold justice at all cost and never to consent to any wrongdoing, the tyranny of numbers overwhelmed him.

Davide had always stood for the truth, even if it meant risking his life and career. He fought the Marcos government ahead of most of us. His stance in the 1973 ConCon, his achievements in the Batasan and his decisions in both the Comelec and the Davide Commission proved his independence. But one fine gentleman can be defeated by 11 partisan votes.

Due process

Davide's Supreme Court decisions on the issue of due process and the corollary technical issues of burden of proof, jurisdiction and quantum of evidence spoke of his wisdom, fairness and sense of nationalism. We believe we can trust this man. He'll never disappoint us when justice is at stake.

In Sixta Lim vs NLRC (GR 118434, 26 July 1996), the Chief Justice faulted management for violating the worker's right to due process—"the heart of the employee's right to security of tenure, which is guaranteed in full by no less than the Constitution . . . . Non-compliance therewith is fatal as the requirements are condition *sine qua non* before dismissal may be validly affected."

Burden of proof

The question of burden of proof is present not only in an impeachment case, but also in some labor cases. In Sixta Lim, it was held by the Chief Justice that: "The rule is, of course, doctrinally entrenched that in termination cases, the burden of proving that the employee's dismissal . . . was for just cause rests on the employer."

The Chief Justice held in Sodeco vs NLRC (GR 121582, 16 Oct. 1997) that: "It is settled that the burden of proof proving that an employee was dismissed with just cause rest upon the employer." He applied this doctrine even to non-regular employees.

"In respect to employees, the employer bears the same burden if the former are dismissed before the completion of the project or of the phases thereof for which their services were contracted," Davide said.

Substance over technicalities

In PAL (GR 120506, 28 October 1996), the Chief Justice excused the one-day delay in the submission of the appeal, saying that: ". . . the higher interests of justice favors a relaxation of the rule on the perfection of appears in labor cases . . . ." Had the Chief Justice not done this, PAL would have suffered serious damage arising from the NLRC ruling directing reinstatement.

"While it is an established rule that the perfection of an appeal . . . is not only mandatory but jurisdiction . . . it is equally settled that the NLRC may disregard the procedural lapse where there is an acceptable reason to excuse tardiness . . . ."

The Chief Justice explained that the airline "was misled into believing that PAL received a copy of the decision only on Aug. 26, 1991. This belief in good faith rendered excusable any negligence it might have committed. Besides, the delay . . . was only one day."

Excusable delay

While the Chief Justice is an advocate for speedy labor justice, he allowed slight delays in the interest of justice. In PAL, he cited, among others, "fundamental considerations of substantial justice (Blancaflor, 218 SCRA 366), "prevention of miscarriage of justice or unjust enrichment" (Olacao, 177 SCRA 38), "special circumstance . . . combined with its legal merits" (161 SCRA 122), the amount and the issue involved" (City Fair Corp., 243 SCRA 572).

Jurisdiction issues

The Chief Justice held in PAL: "In the instant case, the labor arbiter's lack of jurisdiction—so palpably clear on the face of the complaint and the perpetuation of unjust enrichment if the appeal is allowed are enough combination of reasons that warrant a relaxation of the rules on perfection of appeals in labor cases."

He agreed with PAL's arguments that "since USSI's cause of action was founded on the security service agreement, and that thereunder, no employer-employee relationship existed between PAL and the security guards . . ., the labor arbiter had no jurisdiction over the complaint."

On jurisdiction, the Chief Justice penned earlier the decision in Pearson vs NLRC (GR 1113928, Feb. 1, 1996) that ". . . the removal of Llorente as managing director is purely an intra-corporate matters . . . Disputes arising therefrom are intra-corporate disputes, which, if unresolved within the corporate structure . . . may be resolved in an appropriate action only by the SEC pursuant to . . . PD 902-A."

The Chief Justice could have changed the course of history if not for the clever maneuverings of those who did not want the truth to come out. It was not easy to preside over a Senate with many brilliant lawyers, complicated by an array of prosecutors, a battery of defense lawyers and a public that is both agitated and impatient.

But, after all these, the Chief Justice earned the admiration of the Filipinos. He evoked in us the thought that perhaps, this man from Argao, Cebu, can even one day become a President.

BOI OKs perks for DFNN.com

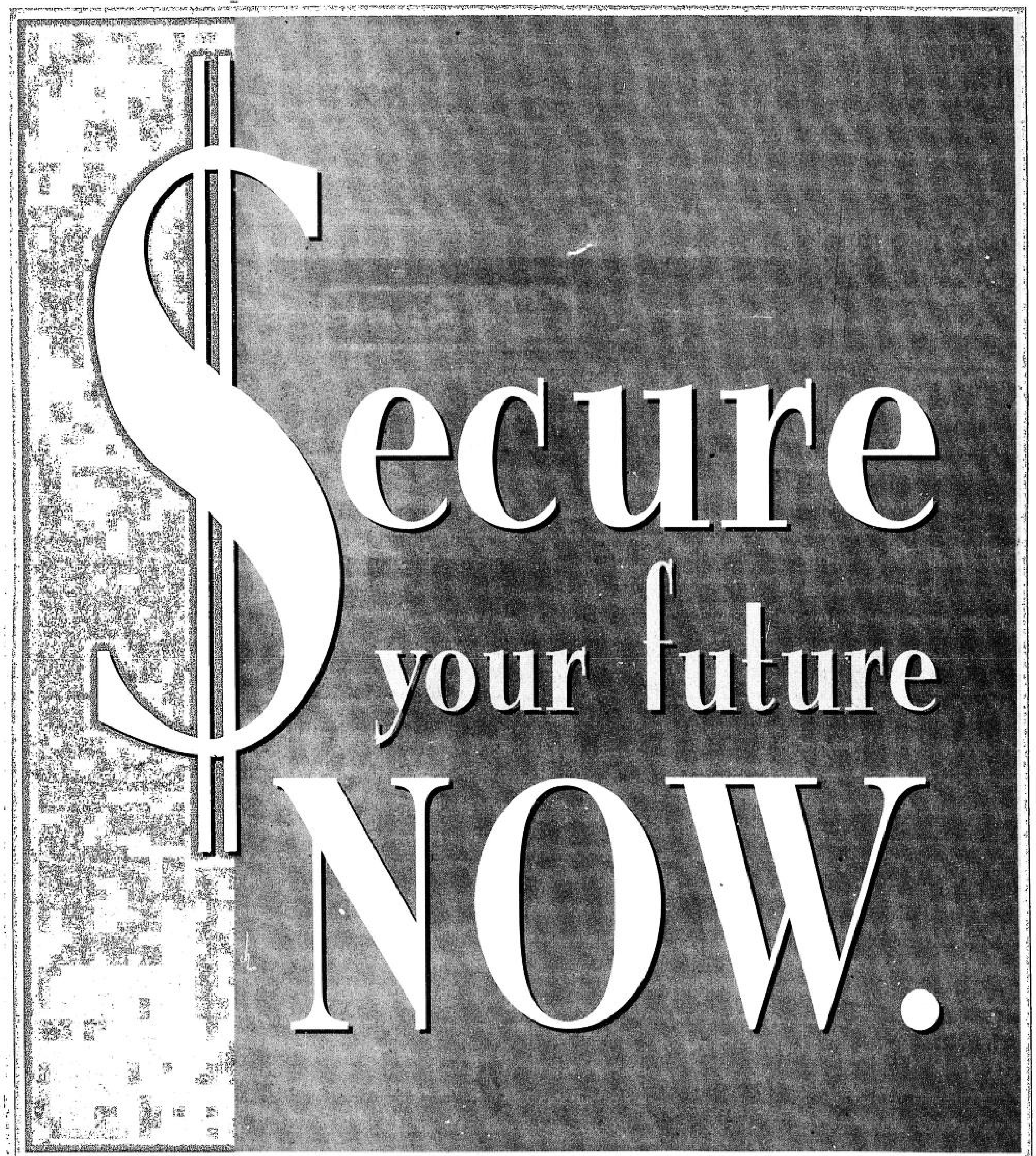
By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BOARD of Investments has approved the registration of newly listed technology upstart Diversified Financial Network Inc. (DFNN.com) for incentives.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, DFNN chief financial officer Dickson Co yesterday said DFNN was registered under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987.

As an enterprise engaged in online stock trading, Web-based advertising and e-commerce solutions provider, the company sought the BOI's available incentives for existing and expanding information technology (IT) service firms.

The move is also aimed at taking advantage of the inclusion of IT projects in the country's Investment Priority Plan, which offers incentives such as income tax holiday, additional deduction on labor expense, employment of foreign nationals, and unrestricted use of consigned equipment.



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Gov't adopts new strategy for PNCC sale

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PRIVATIZATION Management Office is adopting a new strategy in selling the government's 80-percent stake in Philippine National Construction Corp. by shutting down PNCC's construction and real estate division, unloading its properties and liquidating its debts and back taxes before bidding out its toll way franchise and operations this year.

PMO chief privatization officer Renato Valdecantos said that shedding off PNCC's non-core assets and selling only its toll way business would enhance the value of the government's shares in PNCC.

Valdecantos said the PNCC management has started laying off redundant personnel to maintain cost-efficient operations while shutting down its unprofitable construction division, including ongoing projects.

Valdecantos said PNCC was also winding down its real estate business by selling its vast properties, primarily its five-hectare reclaimed property at the government financial center along Roxas Boulevard. Based on previous audit, PNCC has P23 billion worth of booked and unbooked assets in Mandaluyong, Bicutan and scattered all over the North and South Luzon Expressways.

Valdecantos said proceeds from the property sale would be used to settle its unpaid dues with private and public creditors as well as back taxes amounting to P1 billion with the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

'PNCC's massive debt and other dues were the main reason why investor interest was slim in its auction last year. There were only three bidders in PNCC's auction, with the highest bidder rejected by the Asset Privatization Trust.

'The Strategic Alliance Development Corp. (Stradec) and Korean pharmaceutical giant Dong-A offered only P1.228 billion for the government's 80-percent share in PNCC because it was deemed way below the indicative bid price of P7 billion.

The bidding was doomed to fail from the start because the APT pegged the indicative price at P7 billion even though an audit by Development Bank of the Philippines and Punongbayan and Aurallo set the toll way operator's net asset value at P2.6 billion.

Rubberworld property in QC sold for ₱974M

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the sale of a 9.5-hectare property of Rubberworld Inc. in Quezon City to Gigoso Farms Inc. for P974 million.

The amount is payable in three installments, SEC documents showed.

Gigoso's offer was P74 million higher than the P900-million bid of tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan for the same property about three years ago.

Rubberworld, once a leading manufacturer of athletic shoes in the country, filed in 1994 for the suspension of payments on P1.53 billion in debts after partially shutting down. It cited economic problems in 1991 as the reason for its financial woes. It was later put up for liquidation.

Gigoso said that it was willing to make a 50-percent down payment for the Rubberworld property, that includes an unused plant, upon the signing of the deed of sale and the submission of the necessary documents. It promised to make an additional 25-percent payment upon the removal of debris and blockades and the relocation of the settlers in the compound. It said it would pay the final 25 percent upon the turnover of the premises to the Gigosos and the signing of the deed of absolute sale.

The SEC noted that Gigoso's offer for the Rubberworld property was the best among the bids it had received.

However, earlier reports indicated that about four years ago, Ecodyne Properties and Development Inc., had submitted an offer to buy the property for P1.4 billion while DNB Investment Financial Trading and a group associated with Allied Bank Corp. offered P950 million and P800 million, respectively. *Elena Torrijos*

SEC orders forex trader to stop operations

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has issued a cease-and-desist order to Performance Foreign Exchange Corp. for trading foreign currency futures contracts on behalf of clients without the necessary license.

The SEC, in an order, directed the company to immediately stop operating as a foreign currency futures merchant or broker. It also ordered Performance to stop soliciting funds for foreign currency trading.

The SEC said that by operating as a futures contract operator without the necessary license, the company, officially a moneychanger, could be deemed to have violated Section 11 of the Securities Regulation Code and the related provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Code.

The SEC believed that Performance was engaged in more than simple moneychanging activities.

The SEC noted that Performance has been into dealing foreign currencies and that it has been involved in foreign currency trading not for delivery or spot transactions but for speculative purposes.

The SEC has also endorsed the case of Performance to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for investigation to determine whether Performance violated BSP laws and regulations.

Performance was registered with the SEC on June 23, 1998. Its primary purpose is to operate as a broker or agent in transactions involving but not limited to, foreign exchange, deposits, interest rate instruments, fixed income securities, bonds/bill, repurchase agreements, etc.

SMC-Amatil talks still on

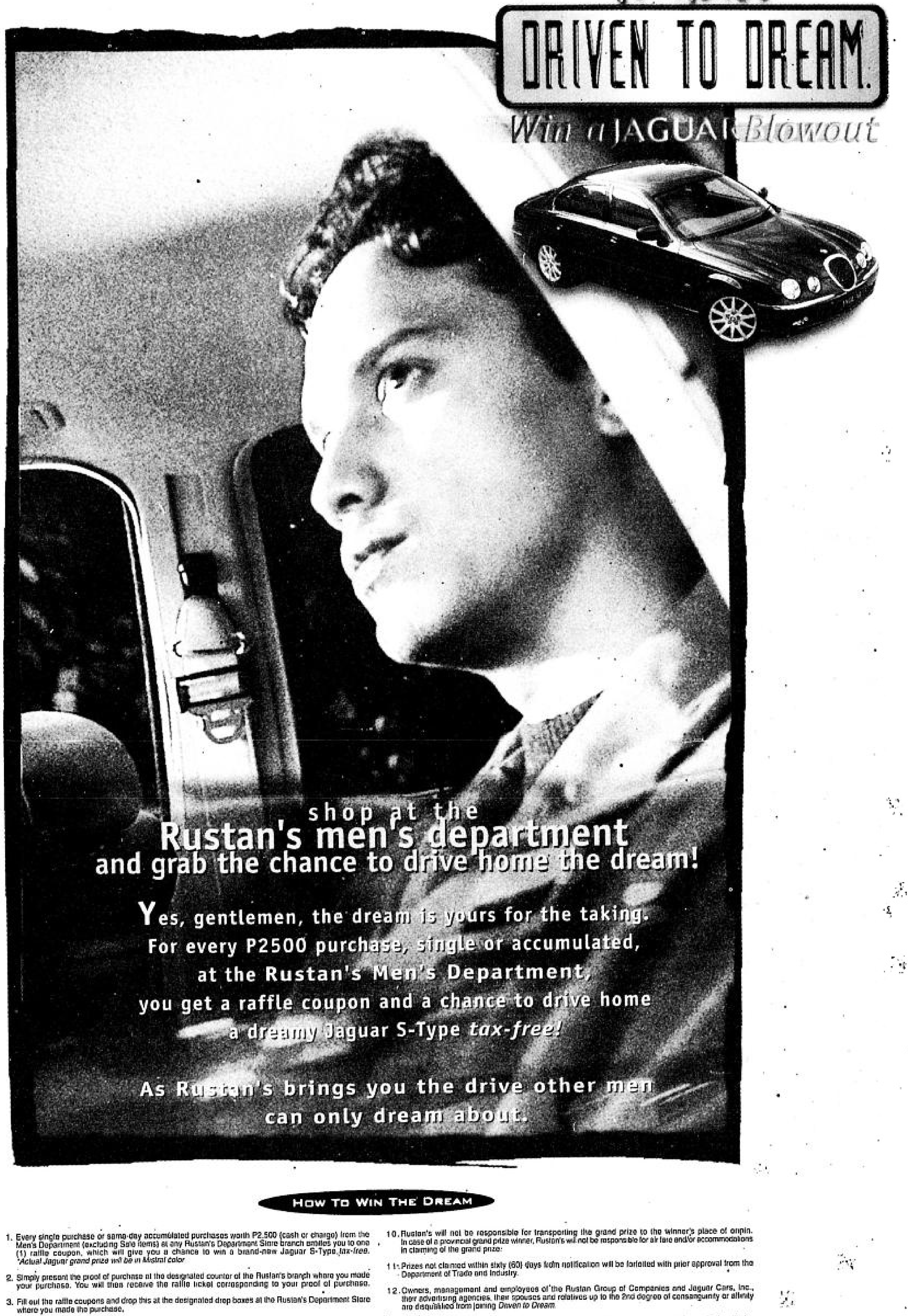
SAN Miguel Corp. said it is still in talks with Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd. to buy the Australian soft-drink maker's Philippine unit, though the company wouldn't disclose whether they're close to an agreement.

Reports said the brewer might complete the purchase of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. later this month.

"It is the company's policy not to comment on the negotiations involving acquisitions or divestitures, as it is difficult to predict whether prospective deals will proceed or not proceed as planned," San Miguel said in a statement to regulators.

San Miguel's purchase of Amatil's Philippine unit would give the company more than half the country's soft drinks market. San Miguel is already the biggest producer of liquor, bottled water and fruit juice and brews nine out of every 10 beers consumed in the Philippines.

Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines would benefit from San Miguel's marketing expertise and extensive distribution network, some analysts said. Profit at the local bottler of Coke, Sprite and Royal Tru-Orange beverages has been hurt by weak consumer demand and increased competition. *Bloomberg*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As Rustan's brings you the drive other men
can only dream about.

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1. Every single purchase or same-day accumulated purchases worth P2,500 (cash or charge) from the Men's Department (excluding Sale items) at any Rustan's Department Store branch entitles you to one (1) raffle coupon, which will give you a chance to win a brand-new Jaguar S-Type *tax-free.* *Actual Jaguar grand prize will be in Mistral color
2. Simply present the proof of purchase at the designated counter of the Rustan's branch where you made your purchase. You will then receive the raffle ticket corresponding to your proof of purchase.
3. Fill out the raffle coupons and drop this at the designated drop boxes at the Rustan's Department Store where you made the purchase.
4. The preliminary draw will be held on February 28, 2001 at the 6/F of Rustan's Makati at 4:00 p.m where a total of ten (10) preliminary winners to win P5,000 worth of Rustan's Gift Certificates will be drawn. A person can only win once.
5. Deadline for submission of raffle coupon will be on or before 8:00 p.m., February 15, 2001.
6. The Jackpot Round will be held on March 8, 2001 at the 2/F of Rustan's Makati at 4:00 p.m in the presence of a DTI representative.
7. The prize will be one (1) brand new Jaguar S-Type. The game will be conducted in the presence of the Rustan's Marketing/Advertising staff and a DTI representative. The prize is not convertible to cash.
8. Winner will be notified through registered mail and telephone by Rustan Commercial Corporation.
9. Winner can claim the prize at the Rustan's Head Office. Winner must present registered mail, proper identification card with picture and the winning raffle stub to claim their prize. Rustan's will not be liable for any lost claim stub.
10. Rustan's will not be responsible for transporting the grand prize to the winner's place of origin. In case of a provincial grand prize winner, Rustan's will not be responsible for air fare and/or accommodations in claiming of the grand prize.
11. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from notification will be forfeited with prior approval from the Department of Trade and Industry.
12. Owners, management and employees of the Rustan Group of Companies and Jaguar Cars, Inc., their advertising agencies, their spouses and relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining *Driven to Dream.*
13. All decisions pertaining to *Driven to Dream* with prior approval from DTI will be deemed final and irrevocable.

Preliminary Draw: Ten (10) Preliminary Draw Winners
February 28, 2001 (Wednesday)
6/F Rustan's Makati
4:00 p.m.

Jackpot Round: March 8, 2001 (Thursday)
2/F Rustan's Makati
4:00 p.m.

GRAND PRIZE
Jaguar S-Type, Mistral color, complete with standard features including automatic transmission, aircon, AM/FM stereo with cassette & CD, front & side airbags, ABS, leather seats, all power features.

Consolation Prizes: P5,000.00 worth of Rustan's Gift Certificates each
- To be given to all preliminary winners.
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- Rustan's Gift Certificate is good up to March 8, 2002 only

*PROMO PERIOD: August 18, 2000 to February 15, 2001
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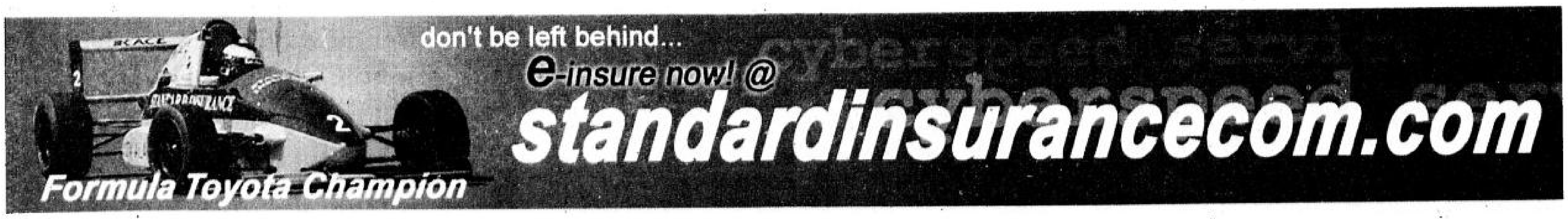
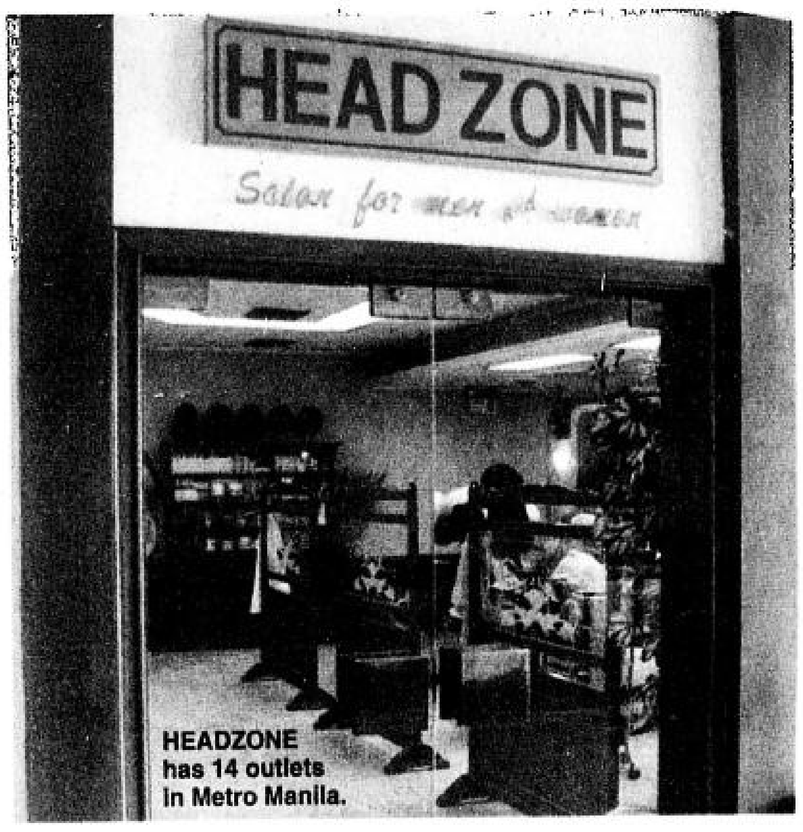




HEADZONE has 14 outlets in Metro Manila.

ON ITS 14TH YEAR

Salon makes cut through skill

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SOME people find it easy to design a house, grow plants or draw a painting. Entrepreneur and certified public accountant Joseph Salao, however, finds it easy to build businesses, including the Head Zone salon group, which has been around for 13 years.

SUCCESS STORY

Salao was able to put up Head Zone in under a month—from concept to the start of construction of the first salon at the Atrium in Makati in 1987.

"At the time we opened the first Head Zone, me and my business partner, Ben Matibag, had the vision of making it a very famous salon," Salao says.

It was a grand idea considering that he got the idea to put up Head Zone in 1986 in Saudi Arabia when Ben gave him a haircut in a first-class salon.

"We were just having a conversation and I learned that he was saving money to put up his own salon. At the time, I had a money remittance business in Saudi Arabia and he was my client. I told him that if he ever wanted to have somebody invest in his business, I am open to it," Salao says.

His partner took him up on his offer and they went on their way to putting flesh to the idea.

Salao and his group worked toward turning the vision into reality by getting only the best hair stylists and providing the best training to meet exacting tastes of its clientele. He says they stress the need to maintain quality to keep the customers coming back.

"We have always said in the company that we should make the salon experience a good one for the client from start to finish. There should also be quality in all stages, from the time the customer comes in, to the shampooing and then to the cutting or other service," Salao says.

From the first salon in Atrium, Head Zone branched out to Edsa Plaza in 1992 and then to Pearl Drive in Ortigas this year. There are now 14 Head Zone salons all over the city, with two more to be put up this year.

Salao credits the success of the Head Zone salon group to the perseverance of the people to make the business work. He says it was perhaps the only reason why he aggressively pushed for Head Zone even if it was bleeding during the first year of operation.

"I just thought that I should not give up. Even if it was losing at the start, you should not just give up if you truly believe in the concept," Salao says.

Aside from the quality services provided by the salon, Salao also attributes the longevity of the Head Zone group to the proper controls and systems that were put up to protect the business.

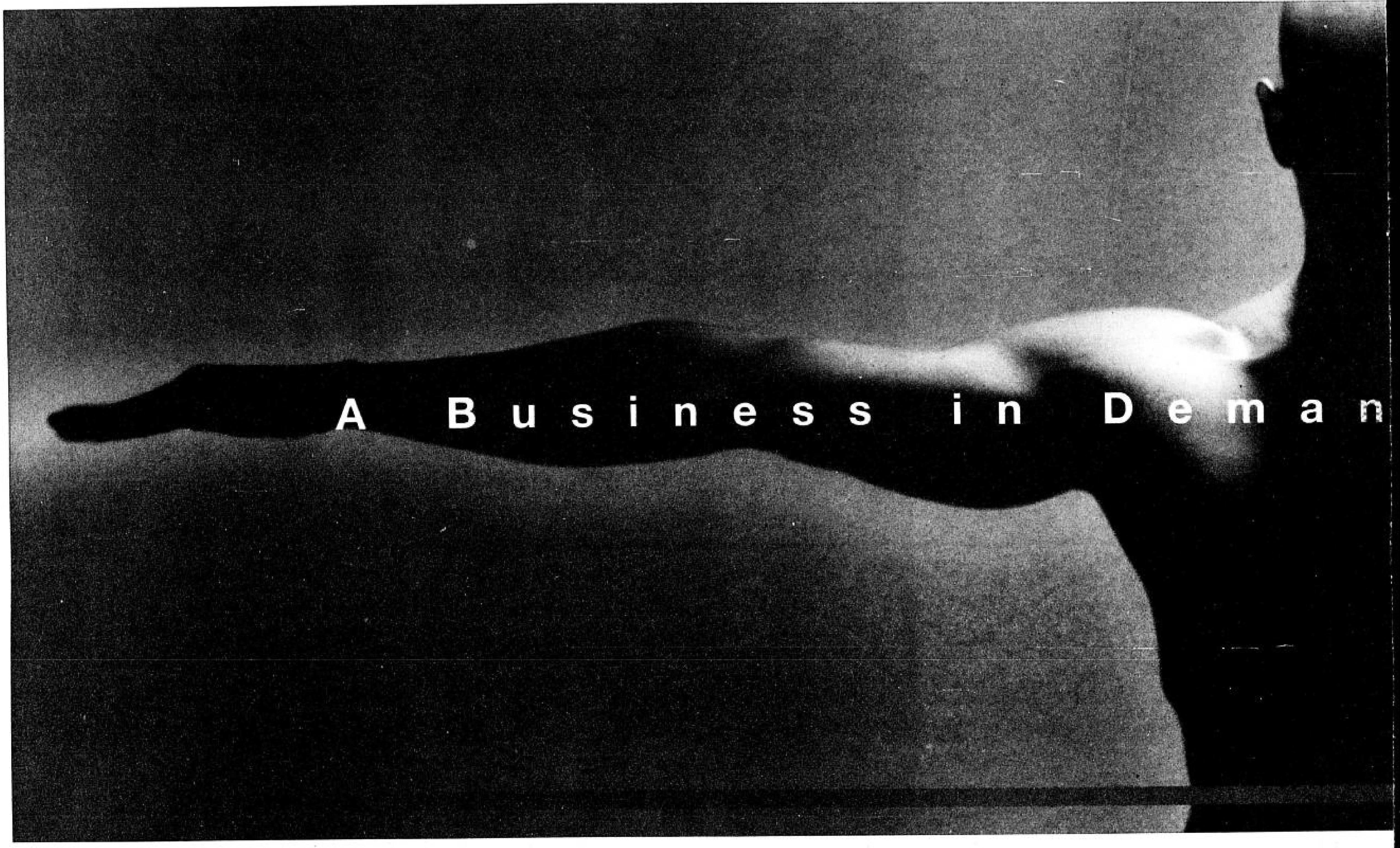
He says that there are many good businesses that went bankrupt due to the lack of proper controls or lack of business skills. Many entrepreneurs, he says, have a great idea and have a passion for their business but they usually go ahead and put up a business without the necessary preparation.

He says this is a major factor behind the fact that only about 20 percent of new businesses actually survive beyond the first year of operation.

"Since I am a CPA, I do the books and the financial controls myself. It is not enough to be just good in the services, it also pays to have a smooth backroom operation," Salao stresses.

Salao says he learned to avoid the pitfalls of operating a business from his work experience at auditing firm Carlos Valdes and Co.

"When I audited companies, I saw how they worked and I learned a lot about business along the way. I am applying these lessons now in my businesses," Salao explains.



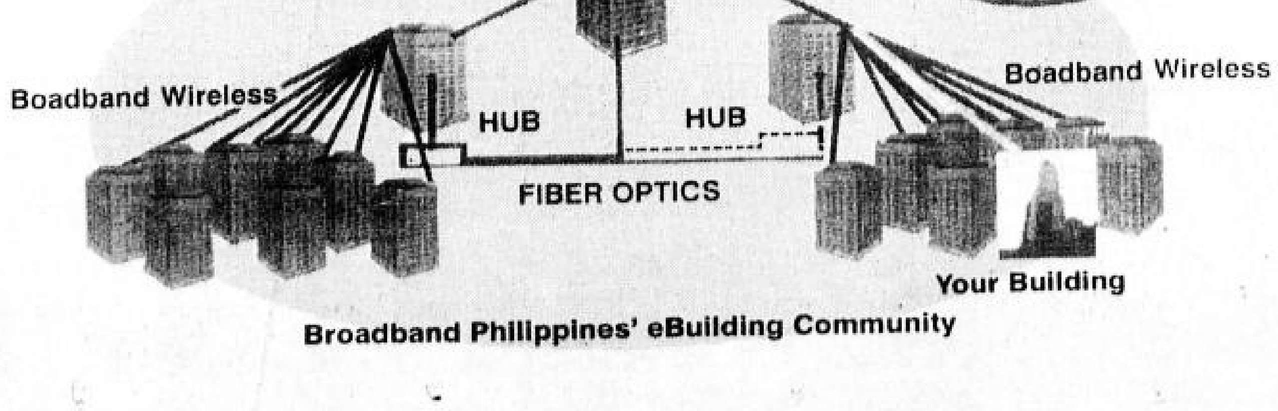
Broadband Wireless Technology-Providing the most reliable service in the country.

Broadband Philippines, the country's premier broadband service provider, introduces a state-of-the-art technology known as Broadband Wireless Technology in the Philippine communications scene.

Broadband Wireless Technology uses microwave frequencies to transmit your data at speeds up to 4 Gbps. With new modulation schemes being developed now, this capacity will be increased further by 4 to 5 times. Broadband Wireless technology is superior in the sense that it can be deployed rapidly, is cost-effective and future-proof. Being cost-effective means Broadband Philippines can translate this into better value and service to its customers. Future proof means that it is able to scale upwards and integrate with old and new systems or applications.

Aside from Broadband Wireless Technology, Broadband Philippines will also be using Fiber Optics, the ultimate solution to Internet and data networks. With Fiber Optics Technology, glass threads are used to transmit data using light as a medium. In addition, data is transmitted digitally (the natural form of computer data) rather than in analog form. This technology greatly increases speed of transmission by multiples of thousands.

Broadband Wireless Technology and Fiber Optics provide the best combination of capacity, economies, and ease of deployment. This combination provides Broadband Philippines a quantum leap over its competitors and allows it to offer the most reliable service in the country.



Broadband Philippines' eBuilding Community

With all the talk about Broadband lately, freelance writer Maelyn M. Angulo recently sat down with Broadband Philippines Chairman and CEO Joey de Venecia and their VP for Marketing Martin Nery to find out more about the company's plans

Angulo: What is broadband?

De Venecia: Broadband communications is the next step in integrating Philippine corporations with the world. It changes the way we do business. You're able to transfer data files at very high speed. You are able to manage communication processes in a more efficient way at less cost.

Broadband is basically a highway that we are setting up. On this highway, companies can work as one. If you have a company and you want to communicate with your sales teams, you can meet with them in virtually one location using this broadband highway. You can have five remote offices having video conferences with the sales manager to plan sales strategies for the day or for the week. Top managers can have video conferences with anyone in the organization at any given time.

You will need at least a 384 kbps (thousand bits of data per second) link from a telecommunications company to be able to do video conferencing. And that's very expensive. For small and medium enterprises, it's very costly. That is what we are planning to address.

Angulo: How do you plan to introduce broadband in the Philippines?

De Venecia: Broadband Philippines is the first telecommunication operator in the country that will use both wired and wireless technologies. On the first-mile connection to the customers, it is what you call the broadband wireless or the wireless protocol whose quality is equivalent to fiber optics. Our value proposition is we will be delivering fiber optic quality communication to customers to enable them to do a wide array of services like video conferencing; set up private networks, have faster Internet connectivity, and other things at very reasonable cost. Since our network will be both wired and wireless, we are able to effectively lower our charges to customers

Bro

Tariff body reviews duties on truck parts

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CABINET-LEVEL Tariff and Related Matters is combing through the newly approved revisions in the government's tariff structure to determine if it has inadvertently raised duties on some goods instead of just maintaining them at current levels.

The TRM ordered its Technical Working Group to look into Executive Order 334 after it realized belatedly that it made a mistake in raising duties on completely knocked-down parts, or assembly kits, for trucks and buses from 3 percent to 10 percent over the next three years.

A government source said yesterday the TRM wanted to ferret out the errors it made in EO 334 in two to three weeks to make the proper corrections before Congress takes a break on Feb. 12.

The government can amend mistakes through an executive order that can only be issued when Congress is not in session.

The source admitted that the tariff revisions in EO 334—which essentially maintained duties on most goods in 2000 to 2001, except for automotive and petrochemicals that had their tariffs kept until 2004—were rushed and did not go through a rigorous review. The executive order took effect on Jan. 1 this year.

The source said the TRM only realized that it erred in some of the tariff changes after Truck Manufacturers Association Inc. president Frank Nacua wrote President Estrada complaining about the tariff hike on completely knocked-down parts for trucks and buses.

Oil firms ready fuel price hike in Feb. after Opec output cut

By Christine A. Gaylican

LOCAL oil firms said yesterday they would again raise their prices next month following a decision by oil-producing countries to cut output effective Feb. 1.

Opec ministers meeting in Vienna agreed this week to reduce output by 1.5 million barrels per day, just over 5 percent, to underpin crude prices at $25 per barrel.

Officials of the country's "Big Three" oil refiners—Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc.—said they expected Opec's production cut to jack up the price of Dubai crude, which had moved up to $22.07 per barrel as of Jan. 16 from $21.65 per barrel last month.

They said they were also losing money because of the peso's weakness against the US dollar.

The local currency fell on Wednesday to an all-time low of 55.75 after President Estrada's impeachment trial ground to a halt when the 11-member prosecution panel of the House of Representatives resigned. The prosecutors protested a Senate decision not to open crucial bank records that would provide evidence of the wealth Mr. Estrada amassed while in office.

The peso closed yesterday at 54.79 to a dollar from 54.625 on Wednesday.

"The market had so far taken the negative anticipation of the Opec meeting," Petron corporate communications manager Antonio Pelayo said in an interview.

Pilipinas Shell vice president Reynaldo Gamboa said it was still too early to ascertain the impact of Opec's production cut, and that there was a need to further monitor prevailing market trends.

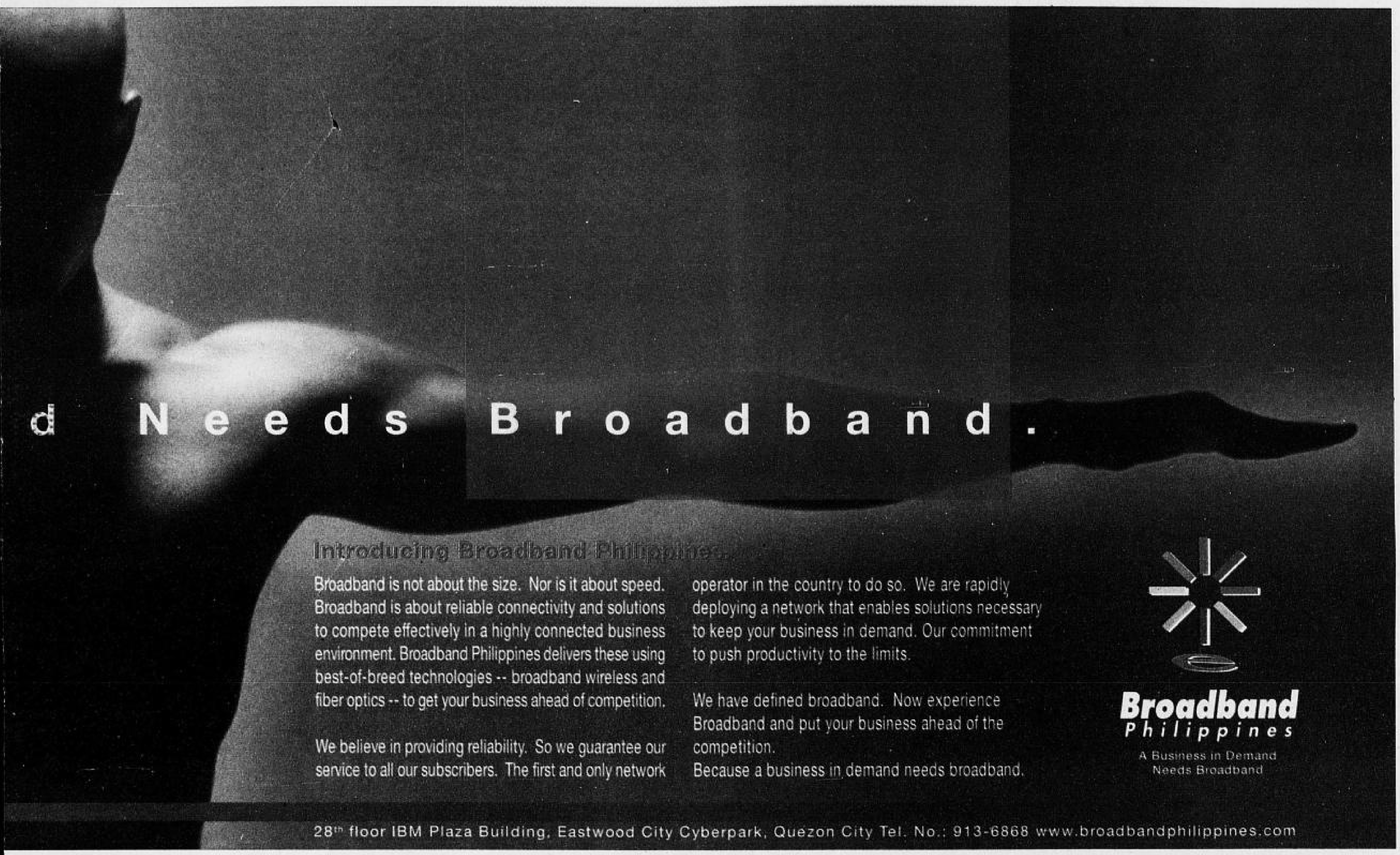
Gamboa said among the factors that Pilipinas Shell was considering—apart from rising world crude prices and the peso's depreciation—were the request of petroleum dealers to increase their margins by 40 centavos per liter; cost implication of the Clean Air Act; high interest rates; under-recoveries over the past three months; and, lifting of the tariff suspension on imported petroleum products.

Philippine Institute of Petroleum Inc. executive director Reynaldo Marquez said in a separate interview that Opec's target to maintain prices at $25 to $26 per barrel would definitely raise local pump prices.

"The recent decline of international crude prices to a low of $19 per barrel had forced Opec to mull a cutback of some 1.5 million to 2 million barrels from its daily production. If this happens, the second phase of the rollback may not be possible. We should also monitor the peso deterioration," Marquez told the INQUIRER.

Last week, Petron, Shell and Caltex cut gasoline prices by 60 centavos per liter and diesel and kerosene prices by 50 centavos per liter.

New oil players Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. and Total Petroleum Philippines Inc. also reduced their prices, with Unioil slashing gasoline prices by 52 centavos and diesel prices by 42 centavos and Total cutting gasoline prices by 60 centavos and diesel prices by 50 centavos.



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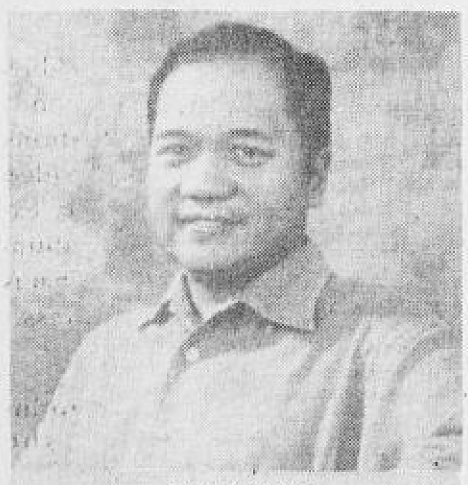

DE VENECIA

When you look at the traditional telecommunications network, 70 percent of the cost of these networks is spent on diggings in the ground and on setting up cables. In our network we don't have those things. We put a broadband wireless radio on top of a building and invest on that building by cabling in that building and connecting customers in that building to our network. The value proposition there for building owners is we make their buildings broadband-ready.

Angulo: How would you describe the present telecommunications network we have in the country?

De Venecia: The present telecommunication infrastructure in the Philippines is not broadband but narrow band, because primarily it is for voice or phone calls. I remember when I was first connecting to the Internet, the modem speed I was using was 1200 baud and when it went up to 9.6 kbps, I was able to use the fax. When it went up to 14.4 kbps, I was able to do my e-mail yet it was still very slow. As the band became broader, we got new applications such as surfing the Internet. When we continue to improve the size of the highway, the size of the pipe, we can do more complex things.

That is why we have positioned ourselves to apply best-of-breed technologies to be able to address the expanding needs of corporations in the Philippines. Let's say you want to transfer the engineering design of an entire building, say a 20-megabit file, you'll need at least eight hours to do that using today's telecom infrastructure. Secondly, since our telecom infrastructure is really for voice and not for data, you'll be lucky if you'll be able to complete that process. Sometimes the line just gets dropped and you have to download it again. In our network, we do that task in one minute because the capacity is so vast and broad.

Angulo: What is your company's focus right now?

Nery: Our aim is to service our corporate customers well. Thus, we are now focused on building the most reliable broadband Internet and data network in the country.

Angulo: Do you plan to offer your services to households?

De Venecia: Broadband services are more concentrated with the corporate side. Our business model is building-centric, that is, we invest in buildings which house our corporate customers. We are currently deploying our network in Metro Manila, wiring buildings and putting radios on these buildings. We are creating an **e Building community** within our network. We're addressing the corporate market because this is really the driver of our economy. The performance of these companies will bring the economic benefits down to their employees.

Angulo: Do you think broadband will spur the growth of the Internet in the Philippines?

De Venecia: The growth of the Internet is driven by two things. First is the price of computers. It has not really gone down. If you'll buy a multimedia computer now, you'll have to spend 20-plus thousand or more. With the disposable income of the Filipinos, we're not there yet, unlike our neighbors. So computer penetration in the Philippines has not taken off as fast as in other countries. Second, the telecom infrastructure is not really there. It's there but the quality is really for voice, not for data transmission. In order to drive Internet usage and growth, the proper broadband infrastructure is necessary.

NERY

Angulo: There are other broadband providers that are coming out lately. What makes your company different?

Nery: It is our belief that technology will continue to improve and that we need to have an ALL-NEW network in place that was designed for broadband from the start. It is not meant to disparage other technologies but we feel that not having to upgrade old networks means a brand new network that is broadband inside and out, a service that grows with the customers needs. It is also our belief that old networks designed for things other than broadband can only be upgraded so much until it hits the limit. You cannot force true broadband into copper infrastructure, which is primarily designed for voice calls. There is only so much copper can do.

In fact, we are so confident about the technologies we are deploying and its reliability that we are willing to provide a guarantee of availability of service to all our customers across the board—a first in the Philippines.

BUSINESS*Friday*

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Viral marketing: 'Word of mouse'

By DENNIS M. ARROYO

THERE is a list of impeachment jokes circulating on the Internet. They revolve around the classic, "Why did the chicken cross the road?" Some sample lines:

Sen. Raul Roco: "It is a noble calling for a chicken to cross the road."

Clarissa Ocampo: "The chicken was crossing into the office of, I am sorry, Atty. Estelito Mendoza."

Sen. Miriam Santiago: "Your honor, stop that chicken from staring at me."

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.: "There are no objections, so the chicken may now cross the road."

Forwarded jokes call to mind a form of e-marketing that costs peanuts yet yields tremendous revenues. Hotmail should know. Their idea was so clever that they got to sell the business to Microsoft for $800 million.

How tiny is the marketing budget? Well, how much does it cost you to send e-mail? The concept is called "viral marketing."

Recall the "IloveYou" virus and how fast it spread across the globe. Think also of the Erap jokes that come your way via the Net. Your natural impulse is to forward them. Hence, this form of marketing depends on the reach of e-mail.

"The phenomenon of viral marketing is an opportunity that many let slip through their grasp," says Carl Christensen, managing director of Domino Systems. "This powerful mechanism relies upon 'word of mouse' endorsement and is an extremely cost-effective method of building traffic—if done well."

As defined, viral marketing is inviting the public to an easy action that will spread the word about your product over the Net. It occurs spontaneously as "word of mouse" or more deliberately through corporate giveaways.

Hotmail is the classic case. The founder first hit on the idea of offering people the option to have a secret e-mail address. So potent was the concept that the original partners could not discuss it over the phone, for fear of it being copied. The advantage lay not so much in having a secret address as in accessing your e-mail from anywhere.

Hotmail got 10 million customers in 18 months by offering free e-mail. Each e-mail sent had this line at the end: "Get your private, free email at http://www.hotmail.com."

This generated immense traffic to the Hotmail site, luring lucrative advertising. Microsoft saw that the e-mail site was a gold mine for attracting traffic, so the giant firm bought Hotmail for $800 million. Word of mouse—whether spontaneous or planned—thrives on creativity.

"A good example I have come across recently was from Coca-Cola," recalls Christensen. "I received a small executable file in my inbox, which said something along the lines of "run this to install your free drinks holder."

The program then proceeded to open my CD-ROM drive, leaving the tray in position waiting for its can of fizzy drink."

Here then are a few guidelines for viral marketing.

- Don't spam the customer database with your advertising. People will consider that junk mail. The more direct and angry customers will send angry replies, while the more polite ones will keep quiet but avoid your products.

Remember that downloading junk e-mail eats up their Internet time, and it will show in their bills.

"Viral marketing however is not spam, as it relies upon strong community adoption," adds Christensen. "The key to a successful viral campaign is turning customers and potential customers into your marketeers. The measure of success is not when your message reaches a new consumer, it is whether that consumer chooses to spread the word."

- The way to go is to offer them something FREE.

"Send this to your friend and get a new Charlie's Angels screen saver." "Forward this e-mail and get the latest collection of political jokes." "Visit our website and see what great world events happened on the day you were born."

- Produce and send an e-mail newsletter. It should offer interesting facts and tips useful for your target market. And by the way, it can mention your product at the end.

Let's say you are a manager for a company selling athletic shoes. You can edit an e-mail newsletter on basketball. It can feature the latest PBA game results, tidbits on the career of Michael Jordan, profiles on the guys to watch out for from the ranks of the UAAP, and a Term of the Day corner (on the Triangle Offense for example). Plus some fan jokes. The newsletter naturally carries a small ad about your store.

- You don't project to the reader that the newsletter is basically a sales pitch for your product. That's why the ad has to be short. Rather, you send the newsletter to build a relationship with them. The point is to get your customers to like you more.

The e-mail they forward will create a base of prospective new customers. *Comments to dmarroyo@hotmail.com*

Future standard: Consumer access 24 hours, 7 days a week

(From page B12)

lines on corporate governance principles that could be the forerunner to some standardized global practice. And companies, no matter where they are based, are selling worldwide; raising money worldwide; dealing with governments worldwide, and being reported on worldwide. If you are going to be advising them, what kind of experience do you think you should have? International work experience is routine in the banking and financial world and it's very common in the advertising and accounting professions. We need to make it routine in ours.

24/7 world

In the next 10 years, technological innovation will change our lives and how we communicate. There will be a convergence of computer and communication technologies that will further multiply and fragment the means of communication. This will push us further toward a 24/7 world. Customer access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week will be the standard of the future. In an Internet age, middlemen disappear, costs come down, convenience will be paramount and change can come from anywhere.

If there is one thing that the Internet is responsible for, it is the democratization of knowledge. Internet usage is exploding and by 2010, hundreds of millions, if not billions, of people will be accessing information on any subject that interests them. As an information medium, it carries many of the same risks as those we have now, but because it's so new and different we forget some of the basics. For example, the Financial Accounting Standards Board in a recent report, "Electronic Distribution of Business Reporting," cautions that product hype can turn into litigation language and quotes a Harvard Journal of Law and Technology article as saying that website news release archives are already being pored over by litigious lawyers for evidence of companies' products failing to perform to the levels previously promised.

Company intranets are a great way to communicate with employees and usually in a fairly free way, but the desire to update staff through a secure system shouldn't color more basic judgments.

Last year when KLM, the Dutch airline, posted an announcement on its intranet about its disappointing operating results and what measures might be taken to improve them, the Amsterdam Stock Exchange ruled that since some employees were shareholders, this was selective disclosure and as such contravened its listing rules.

But the Internet is more than a one-way information medium and it can have profound implications for companies. If a company misbehaves anywhere, the whole world will know about it. Contrast that to a few years ago.

A US company could face some modest embarrassment in one country and so long as it didn't develop into a major local story—and even sometimes when it did, the public relations director could contain the situation to the country in question without the mistake or embarrassment getting back to the US. Not so anymore. The reason the Internet fosters this is because it makes us all publishers and broadcasters.

Everyone is an arbiter of what is "news" now. Indeed, activists, disgruntled employees, unethical competitors or others have the ability to transmit their version of "news" and information around the globe. Rumor can spread in hours; the mainstream media may pick up on it and even if they don't, you can still have thousands see it before too long. And these viewers could be the very people important to you like large stockholders, employers, regulators and so on.

The examples I have used show the threats associated with the Internet, but think of the opportunities. We are entering a period where a customer will be king, and mass customerization will be possible.

You can already custom design your own computer through Dell. Before long, you will be able to customize your own car, CDs, and many other products. This will give rise to individualized communications with customers in ways that marketers just dream about today. Who better qualified than public relations people to guide those communications for the benefit of the company's overall corporate positioning and reputation?

Rise of the middle class

We are all aware of the changes technology is bringing about, but how aware are we of the changes occurring in our various global audiences? One of the problems we have today is that business has speeded up so much that we all are caught up in our day-to-day emergencies but are failing to step back to look at the bigger picture.

We know things are changing fast here but in many ways, far more dramatic changes are taking place elsewhere. Developing countries have progressed as fast in the last 25 years as the industrialized world did in the previous one hundred. India today has a middle class of 200 million people. Believe it or not, in Communist China there are 80 million individual investors—about the same as the US. Countries like Taiwan, Singapore, Israel, Chile and Sweden today have living standards comparable to the US and Japan—the two richest nations in the world.

Kevin Kelley of Wired Magazine forecasts that hundreds of millions of people will enter the global middle class for the first time in the next decade. Even the poorest of the world will be less poor by any objective measure.

Prosperity can no longer be segregated to one part of the globe. What this means is that this boom of producers and consumers creates a huge 5 billion—yes 5 billion—person market for products. It will also result in a huge demand for investment products in an era when governments everywhere are placing more of the responsibility for retirement on the individual.

I, like many of us in the US, think of Europe whenever the word international comes up, but that is not where the growth is. English may be the world language of business but some believe that Chinese will be the most popular Internet language in 10 years. Interestingly, one of the best sources of daily news on China—China Online—is published in Chicago. This is a Web equivalent of a daily newspaper in Chinese, with Chinese reporters throughout the country, but published 8,000 miles away in Chicago. A sign of the times. The increasingly prosperous people in places like India, Brazil and China will be your new colleagues, customers, partners or suppliers yet many of the PR directors I speak to have little knowledge of the speed of change in these markets or the social fabric and history of these countries. This is not because of a lack of recognition of need or desire, but a lack of time to stay current on developments.

Technological and social revolution

While many countries abroad are progressing with the economic revolution, a technological and social revolution is occurring here. I have already alluded to the inexorable slide to a 24-hour/7-day week. As a consumer, it's great, but the flip slide of this is people are working longer. This in turn is leading to a convergence of life and work. Long gone are the days when you put in an eight-hour day at the office and then were free. Technology now means that employees are reachable anywhere, anytime. Moreover, with more and more international aspects to working life today, it is not all unusual for a New Yorker to start his or her day at 7 a.m. in conversation with European colleagues and be conversing with clients in Japan at midnight. I no longer do it, thank God, but I have, and today, many more do. And lest you think this is just a US phenomenon consistent with a strong American work ethic. It is not. Go to London, Paris, Tokyo, Sydney, Hong Kong. You will find the same thing. People are working longer hours, often from their homes or on the road; employers are becoming more and more flexible in their practices as they have to, the world has speeded up and there is a shortage of good people. I, for one, don't think that this is a fad or just a feature of a booming economy. I happen to think that even if we have a slowdown, the same relentless deadlines will continue because the technology allows it and it has become ingrained in so many.

Bricks and mortars to brains

Now this is happening at a time when increasingly we are moving from a physical asset-based economy to one of intangible assets—in other words, from bricks and mortar to brains. Consider this. Interbrand, a branding consultancy, recently reported that 70 percent of the market capitalization of the London Stock Exchange today is made up of intangible assets. And in the US, the American Enterprise Institute points out that the ratio of book value to market value for the S&P 500 is today six to one. Thirty years ago, it was one to one. Intangible assets are things like software, licenses and brands. But my point is that it is brainpower not brawn that created them. In the economy of the 21st century, people will be the assets that's valued most. When you have physical assets, shareholders can own them but there can be no ownership of people's minds. Thus the company/employee relationship and employee communications function becomes critical. More than ever before, companies will need to create an environment where the best people will want to work, and just as importantly, will want to stay.

(The author is a recipient of Atlas Award for Lifetime Achievement in international public relations. This paper was presented at the International Public Relations Congress, hosted by the International Public Relations Association and the Public Relations Society of America.)

WITH only P30,000, an entrepreneur can ride on the pearl shake bandwagon. JOHNNY VILLENA

WHY PAY A COSTLY FRANCHISE FEE?

Set up your own pearl shake shop at a fraction of the franchise cost

HOW TO

THE PEARL shake industry led by Zagu and Orbitz is one of the few businesses that managed to do well amid political and economic upheavals the past two years. It is not unusual to find students and professionals patiently lining up to get their cool flavored drinks with the requisite chewy "pearls" or plain old sago.

Many budding entrepreneurs want to jump on the pearl shake bandwagon but find the franchise and royalty fees just too expensive.

But The NegoSkwela Livelihood and Technology Training Center states one need not get an expensive franchise to get into the business. In its primer on the pearl shake business, it states that one can put up a business selling similar pearl shakes for just a fraction of the cost.

NegoSkwela says a pearl shake business can be set up with an initial capital of only about P30,000 which includes the cost of putting up a small stall. Raw materials such as the flavored powder and the raw pearl sago are available in Divisoria and in Sto. Cristo, Binondo.

There are more than 30 flavors to choose from but only about a dozen are suited to the Filipino palate. These include ube, mocha, buko pandan, chocolate, vanilla, strawberry and lychee.

A kilo of the flavoring costs about P150. A bag is enough to produce more than 100 cups of pearl shakes. Sago, on the other hand, costs about P120 per kilo, which should be enough for about 300 cups.

NegoSkwela says a bag of raw pearl sago will retain its flavor for about six months while cooked pearl sago must be used within a maximum of 10 hours. Flavored powder, on the other hand, will keep for three months.

Aside from the flavored sago and powder, businessmen who want to go into the pearl shake business should invest in a blender, measuring spoon, measuring cups, mixing bowl, measuring pint, wooden spoon, sauce pan, strainer, scooper and the plastic cups and straw for the finished drinks.

NegoSkwela says a neighborhood stall should earn at least P1,400 a day to break even which is equivalent to about 46 cups of pearl shake a day assuming a selling price of P30 per cup.

Each serving uses about 1/2 cup of powdered flavor, a scoop of sago pearls and sugar, 1/4 cup of water and a scoop of crushed ice. These are blended in the osterizer and served with a big straw and tissue paper.

A good pearl shake should be creamy in appearance, the color is uniform and the sago should stay in the bottom and the shake on top.

NegoSkwela says the success of a pearl shake business rests on the speed of work, cleanliness, the accurate measurement of the raw materials and the blending process. The shakes should never be watery as the customers will surely reject these.

NegoSkwela stresses that the pearl shake business can still generate good profits for the entrepreneur even if a lot of pearl shake outlets have opened, reminiscent of the *lechon manok* and shawarma phenomena.

With the summer season just around the corner, there will be a demand for cool drinks like the pearl shake, which has become part of the Filipino lifestyle like fishball, *turon* and barbecue. ***Tina Arceo-Dumlao***

Packaging . . .

(From page B12)

the service we provide. Many of our personnel went through some vocational courses to know more about the products and to answer customer inquiries," Co says.

He adds that Handyman is looking at the possibility of providing home service to clients. Handyman people will soon be able to install electrical items or fixtures as part of the store's customer service.

Handyman was put up in 1994 because the market needed something more than just a regular hardware store. They wanted to go to just one place where they can find everything they need to maintain their house.

Handyman—a joint venture between Robinson's Supermarket Corp. and Herco Trading—offers electrical and powerful tools, plumbing equipment, gardening tools, car accessories, home care items, decors, paints and other accessories.

True Value, on the other hand, positions itself as more of a lifestyle store. Aside from electrical and lighting equipment, it also sells cement, home building supplies, bed and bath accessories and even barbecue accessories, veranda dining sets and all you need for a picnic.

Lani Castañeda, True Value promotions manager, says True Value strives to provide everything a customer needs to build a home from scratch, to maintain it and to furnish it.

"The True Value Home Center is more than just a hardware store. We carry a wider array of merchandise, local and imported. We want to cover all aspects of the house, not just in building it," Castañeda explains.

True Value, for instance, sells sports and outdoor gear, automotive products and garden and landscaping equipment.

True Value also has personnel to help customers with designer doubts.

"Problems with shape, size, color, texture and doubts about an intended look can get professional solutions from True Value's planners. We also maintain a list of accredited contractors, for those who want only reliable names for their home restructuring needs," Castañeda adds.

True Value also plans to hold monthly educational activities and demonstrations for customers who want to learn new ideas about remodeling their houses or learning a new craft.

Castañeda adds that True Value offers packaging and shipping services for True Value customers in Metro Manila who want to send home items to the provinces.

Handyman, on the other hand, wants to reach out to the market by going outside Metro Manila and the National Capital Region. Handyman has 30 outlets nationwide with 10 new stores to be opened within the year.

These will be put up in Bacolod, Legaspi, Cavite, Los Baños, Tabunok, Roxas, Naga and Tarlac.

True Value, on the other hand, has concentrated in Metro Manila with its flagship store and operations hub opened at the Rockwell Power Plant Mall last December. It has six stores so far and only one is outside Metro Manila (Cebu).

True Value expects to set the trend in operating a superstore for home improvements with the Rockwell store, which covers more than 2,000 square meters.

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MAGALLANES BUNG 3BR 1DN NWLY RENOV POOL 7337623-03 OFF HRS.

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NrlaSalle 3sty3BR T899-2148

MANDALUYONG

MAND CITY EXQTIVE MANTION 4BR 2TB W/ DEN BABY 531-8261

QUEZON CITY

2sty Thse 2BR2TB West Riverside St. SFDM CALL 3725701/8962546 P10T

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Ateneo de Manila University

Loyola Heights, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The School of Science and Engineering of the Ateneo de Manila University under a CHED Center of Excellence project invites all interested parties to pre-qualify and bid to supply, deliver and install any or all of the following equipment in its research laboratories:

1 **Universal Testing Machine**
1 **Portable Photosynthesis Measurement System**
1 **Gel Documentation System**

Pre-qualification forms may be obtained from the Office of the Dean, School of Science and Engineering, 3rd Floor, Science Education Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City from **January 15 to 24, 2001** upon the presentation of a letter of intent and certified true copies of SEC certificate of registration and latest business permit. Deadline for the submission of forms and requirement is at 5:00 p.m. on **January 24, 2001.**

The Ateneo de Manila University reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and accept the offer most advantageous to the University. It assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(PDI - Jan 18 & 19 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
REGIONAL HEALTH OFFICE NO. 4
QMMC Cpd., Project 4, Quezon City

SIGLA

NOTICE TO BID

Regional Health Office No. 4, Quezon City will conduct public bidding for the following:

ITEM	PRE-BID	BIDDING
Purified Drinking Water 5 gal./container	January 29, 2001 10:30 a.m.	February 12, 2001 10:30 a.m.
Janitorial Services	February 05, 2001 10:30 a.m.	February 19, 2001 10:30 a.m.
Office Supplies	February 26, 2001 10:30 a.m	March 12, 2001 10:30 a.m.

For further inquiries, please contact Mr. APOLLO P. GUINTO, Supply Officer III, Tel. No. 913-45-27.

(Sgd.) CONRADO K. GALSIM JR., MD,CPH,CESO III
Director IV

(PDI – January 19, 2001)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

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Republic of the Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines

12 January 2001

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION AND BIDS

(Two-Envelope System)

A. Contract Nos. DS-6 (Package A to D) & DS-7 Proposed Construction of New Water Distribution Mains in Quezon City

B. Contract No. NC-06-CEP-005-00 (Package B, C & D) Proposed Replacement of Existing Water Main Lines in Tondo Sector, Manila (under ANRP)

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) thru its west zone concessionaire, MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC. (MWSI) will undertake the construction of the above contract packages under the Angat Water Supply Optimization Project (AWSOP) which will be financed in part by funds from Loan No. 986-PHI of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to the National Government and allocated to the MWSS as equity. It is intended that part of each Contractor's progress billing under the contracts for which this invitation for Qualification and Bids is issued will be paid directly by the Bank. The works for these projects shall include but is not limited to the supply of all labor, materials and equipment for the proposed construction of new water distribution mains for Contract Nos. DS-6 (Package A to D) & DS-7 and; replacement of existing pipelines through combination of open cut and trenchless pipe laying methods for Contract No. NC-06-CEP-005 (Package B, C and D) as follows:

Contract No./ Location	Pipe Size	Pipe Length (m)	Project Cost Estimate (Php)	Contract Duration
1. DS-6A / Quezon City	150mm0 PVC to 500mm0 SP.	4,436	26,498,750.00	120
2. DS-6B / Quezon City	300mm0 CI to 500mm0 SP	4,372	33,671,512.00	120
3. DS-6C / Quezon City	150mm0 PVC to 500mm0 SP	6,469	31,680,737.00	120
4. DS-6D / Quezon City	150mm0 PVC to 500mm0 SP	2,759	18,129,579.05	100
5. DS-7 / Quezon City	300mm0 PVC to 400mm0 SP	3,850	23,583,647.00	100
6. NC-06-CEP-005-00 package B/ Tondo, Mla.	100mm0 PVC to 600mm0 SP	4,810	26,000,000.00	120
7. NC-06-CEP-005-00 package C/ Tondo, Mla.	150mm0 PVC to 250mm0 CI/DI	5,625	30,000,000.00	120
8. NC-06-CEP-005-00 package D/ Tondo, Mla.	150mm0 PVC to 200mm0 PVC	5,860	28,000,000.00	120

Bidding is open to contractors and joint ventures of contractors who have previous experience with similar works.

All affiliated companies of MWSI are disqualified to bid. Affiliated companies are those over which the concessionaire exercises control of voting stocks or which operate with them as part of a system or enterprise. They shall include, but not be limited to those corporations which are subsidiaries owned or controlled by the concessionaire, or corporations in which the concessionaire has substantial interest.

Bidders may bid on any or all of the above contract packages tabulated above but award of contract will be limited to two (2) contract packages per bidder.

Interested eligible bidders will be required to submit their accomplished qualification document and bids at the same time in two (2) separate sealed envelopes. The envelope containing the bid will be kept in a sealed box which will not be opened until after the completion of the qualification evaluation and the list of qualified bidders has been finalized and approved by the MWSS Board of Trustees. Only the bids of qualified bidders will be opened on the date of bid opening which will be announced later. The bids of the disqualified bidders will be returned unopened.

A complete set of bid documents may be purchased from the address below starting 16 January 2001 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) for each contract package.

CAC SECRETARIAT
MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
2nd Floor Engineering Bldg., MWSI Office
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City

The accomplished qualification documents and bids in two (2) separate sealed envelopes must be submitted at the office of the MWSS PBAC/CSTE, Engineering/ Operations Building, MWSS, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City on or before 2:00 p.m. of 14 February 2001. Late bids will not be accepted. The official time shall be based on the bundy clock located at the office of the MWSS PBAC SECRETARIAT.

Goods and services to be supplied under these contracts must have their origin from countries defined in the "Guidelines for procurement under the ADB Loans".

(Sgd.) **JOSE F. MABANTA**
Administrator

(PDI Jan 19 23 & 27 2001)

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HRC MEMORIAL SERVICES

ANNOUNCEMENT BOARD

Name of Deceased	Viewing Place	Interment Date
1. Dalisay M. Aguas	#13 Morocco Street Greenheight Subdivision Phase III, Marikina City	January 20, 2001

For our services, please call Tel. Nos. **948-0233** and **948-0374**, Telefax **948-0265** located at **Loyola Memorial Park Administration Building, Tañong, Marikina City**. We are sure we can help you.

RITA TAN LEE

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 17, 2001 at the age of 49.

Her bereaved husband **TEDDY**; daughters **RACHELLE, ROSELLE ANNA, TERELLE RIZA**, and **TRICIA**; brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be cremated on Saturday, January 27, 2001 at 9 a.m. at the La Funeraria Paz Crematory.

An obituary
with a picture
can be a fitting
tribute to your
departed loved one.

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Consejo (Conching) Diaz Nartatez

of San Narciso, Zambales and Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 17, 2001
at the age of 83.

Her bereaved husband **Ret. Col. Rufino G. Nartatez (Pinong)**; son **Dr. Pedro D. Nartatez (Pedring)**; daughter-in-law **Barbara**; grandchildren **Mark-Jamie, Jeffrey-Lori, Elizabeth-Todd, Laurie, Amy-Michael** and **Jonathan-Marina**; great grandchildren; brothers **Manuel** (†), **Belong** (†); sisters **Baby** and **Esther**; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at National Memorial Homes (Chapel 2-B), 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 21, 2001 at the North Cemetery after 12:00 noon Mass.

He left us all with his legacy,
a humble, simple life, a responsible father
and an ample provider, dedicated to his work.

Felix T. Limchayseng, DMD

August 3, 1923 - January 18, 2001

His bereaved wife **Ma. Belen**; children **Louie** and **Lori**, **Butch** and **Arlene**, **Martin** and **Marigin**, **Vicki** and **Zen Pastoriza**; grandchildren **Ethan** and **Gavin**, **Angela** and **Anton**, **Sabrina**; brother and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His ashes are in Christ the King Church, Green Meadows, Quezon City. Burial will be on Saturday, January 20, 2001, 3:00 p.m. at the Green Meadows Crypt.

Our Beloved

ROSARIO "LELING" HALILI MANARANG

Peacefully passed away on January 17, 2001
at the age of 87.

Her children **Sol, Jun, Dar, Vic** and **Joy**; her brothers and sisters **Dandong, Telong** and **Pelang**; and their respective families request your prayers for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 21, at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

ELIZABETH TOLENTINO FONTANILLA

Died in the grace of our Lord on January 17, 2001
at the age of 57.

Her loving husband **ANTONIO**; children **JOHN ANDREW, FRANCIS ANTHONY, MARIA MELISSA** and **KATHLEEN ANNE**; parents **ANDRES** (†) and **VISITACION TOLENTINO**; brothers and sisters **ERNESTO** and **CORAZON, BENJAMIN** and **EMMA, CRISTINA** and **EDUARDO** (†); relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Premiere II, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 21, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 1:00 PM Mass at Loyola Chapel.

Masses will be held everyday at 8:00 PM.

"I am the resurrection and the life,
He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;
and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

ROSARIO OBIAS vda. De SERRANO

of

San Jose, Camarines Sur
October 7, 1908 - January 18, 2001

Her bereaved children **Bio** and **Grace**, **Renato** and **Jenny**, **Raul** and **Elvie**, **Alberto** and **TJ** and **Mila Genuino** and **Senator Frank Drilon**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Santuario De San Jose, East Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 21, 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

Please omit flowers.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

2 Cor. 4:14

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(In front of University of Batangas Hilltop, Batangas City • **BAYOMBONG** Garingan Bldg., National Road, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya • **BINONDO** 703 Regina Garden II Bldg., Reina Regente St., Binondo, Manila • **BOGO, CEBU** San Vicente St., Bogo, Cebu • **BORACAY** c/o Kalibo, Aklan • **BUTUAN** G/F Raymund's Bldg., Lopez Jaena Ext., Butuan City • **CABANATUAN** ESB Bldg., Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City • **CADIZ** Punta Cabahug St., Cadiz City, Negros Occidental • **CAGAYAN DE ORO** 52nd Business Center Bldg., 52 J. Gaerlan St., Cagayan de Oro City • **CALAMBA, LAGUNA** Anderson Bldg. II, parian, Calamba, Laguna • **CALAPAN ORIENTAL MINDORO** New Era Bldg., J.P Rizal St.,Calapan, Oriental Mindoro • **CALBAYOG, SAMAR** G/F B&L Bldg., Magsaysay Blvd., Calbayog City, Samar • **CALOOCAN** 277 EDSA near Gen. 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Mini Job Fair AT THE Glorietta

The **INQUIRER'S JOB MARKET** will hold a **"mini" Job Fair on January 24 to 26, 2001;** 1 to 8 p.m. at Level 3, Glorietta III, Ayala Center, Makati City (near Racks). Be part of this recruitment special and be included in our **Resumé Reserve** categorized database.

COME TO OUR MINI JOB FAIR AND GET THE CHANCE TO:

- Input your resumés directly into Resumé Reserve via our computers
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- Submit application to a particular company (Bring at least 10 to 20 copies of resumés)

PLACE A 60 COL. CM. AD (MINIMUM SIZE) IN THE JANUARY 21, 2001 ISSUE OF JOB MARKET TO ENJOY THE FOLLOWING:

- **FREE Job Market Online** placement for five (5) Job categories
- **FREE Job Market copies** for job seekers on the 3-day affair
- **FREE access to our Resumé** Reserve databank gathered during the event
- **FREE** posting and exposure to participating companies in our print ads
- Resumés gathered during the event intended to a particular advertiser will be forwarded as an added service to the said company

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

The people and officialdom of Catarman Northern Samar mourn with deep sorrow the demise of a great leader and an illustrious son

Dr. Wilfredo Delorino Saises

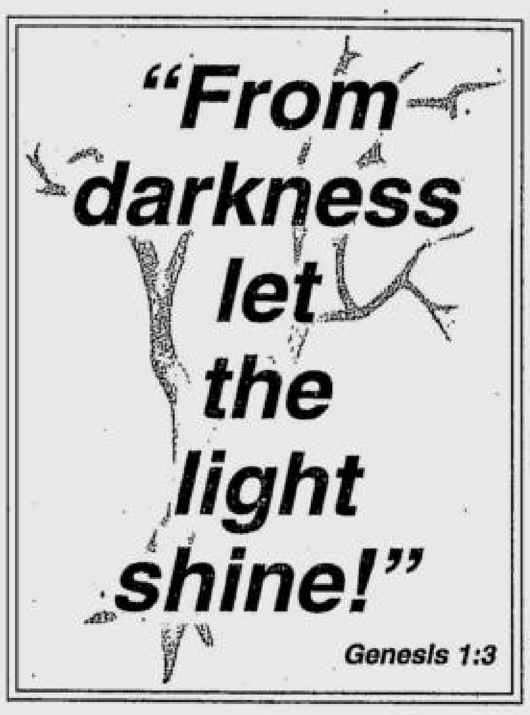
January 29, 1958 - January 12, 2001

Vice Mayor – 1998 - 2001

His loving wife **DRA. SANDRA**; children **MARIEL GRACE** and **TAYAN**; brothers, sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul and for his guidance through his final journey.

His body lies in state at his residence in Catarman, Northern Samar.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 27, 2001.



"From darkness let the light shine!"

Genesis 1:3

Constancio (Tanting) Odvina Celestial, Sr.

of Naic, Cavite

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 18, 2001 at the age of 86.

His loving wife **Natividad Medina**; children **Danilo** and **Delia Galvez**, **Ma. Ruby** and **Tony Pagtalunan**, **Marilou** and **Rudy Valda**, **Constancio, Jr. (Boying)** and **Gloria Cruz**, **Ester Gloria (Baby)** and **Bernie Cando**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, his sisters, brothers, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 21, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Chapels.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Sto. Niño Parish Church, Bancaan, Naic, Cavite will be greatly appreciated.

BUSINESS*Friday*

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

PROVIDE a cool place and parking for people to shop for home needs.

Packaging a hardware into a one-stop shop

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

MARKETING STRATEGY

MANY Filipinos do their own home fixing, but few take the trouble of going to the neighborhood hardware store to get their needs. Most find it too inconvenient to go to these places which are usually cluttered and hot.

The True Value and Handyman Stores were, thus, put up to fill the needs of consumers who want to get their own construction items.

These stores used a simple enough strategy: position the stores as one-stop hardware and home improvement stores, with the added convenience of a wide variety of home improvement items, air-conditioning and ample parking space.

Willy T. Co., president of the Handyman Stores, tells the INQUIRER that it tries to differentiate itself from the competition by fielding trained store personnel to assist customers with their questions on what product to buy.

"We believe that we are different from the other home improvement warehouse stores because of

PACKAGING/ B8

GLOBAL PR IN THE DECADE AHEAD

Future standard: Consumer access 24 hours, 7 days a week

BY GAVIN ANDERSON

THE LEVEL of professionalism and sophistication of public relations practitioners is higher and more widespread around the world today than was the case 30 years ago. Back then, few would argue that the United States was by far the most sophisticated market followed by the other English-speaking countries of the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada.

Public relations as then practiced in Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa was not in the same league at all and there were substantial differences among this latter group. In some markets media corruption was rife, in others, public relations was equated with party planning. There was far less management acceptance of the function, and far fewer talented and experienced people.

Public opinion was less of a factor in society than in the US and so it was ignored. Today, not only will you find public relations professionals in every important company, institution, and government department throughout the world, but there has been growing acceptance of their importance and contribution. Moreover, the level of competence in many countries is high.

The US is still probably the most sophisticated PR market, but much of the rest of the world has caught up. Differences remain of course; cultural differences alone will dictate how issues are approached and handled; the regulatory environment in a given market might dictate that many techniques or approaches common here cannot be used. But these reflect market differences, not competence issues.

As a profession, we are fast approaching a universal standard of competence. This is not to say we all can't improve—we must, as I will illustrate later—but at least we have greater professional uniformity than ever before. I consider this important because I believe we are at a point where the public relations profession can improve its global standing significantly in the decade ahead, but for this to happen we need to have a certain basic competence worldwide.

With the turn of the millennium, we are entering into a period of enormous change. The Cold War is long over; democracy and capitalism have long prevailed.

Free, or at least freer, markets combined with the aspirations of people the world over to improve their lives and those of their children is resulting in increasing global prosperity at many levels. What we are witnessing today is not so much a change as a revolution.

In his excellent book, "The Lexus and the Olive Tree," Tom Friedman, the New York Times' foreign correspondent, describes the age of globalization as a system that integrates capital, technology, and information across national borders in a way that is creating a single global market and to some a degree a global village.

As Friedman says: "If the defining anxiety of the Cold War was fear of annihilation by an enemy you all knew too well in a world that was fixed and stable, the defining anxiety in globalization is fear of rapid change from an enemy you can't see, touch, or feel—a sense that your life can be changed at any moment by anonymous economic and technological forces."

Not everyone is happy about this, as the violent protests at the recent World Trade Organization, World Bank and IMF meetings confirm.

But globalization is a reality and internationalism is a reality. All of us have far greater international connections today than ever before. People are much more aware of international news; they are regularly communicating with friends or colleagues overseas; they are travelling abroad; perhaps you are one of the thousands employed by a foreign-based company, and more are working abroad. In our own company, we have a program where we transfer talented young people for a two or three-year stay in one of our foreign offices.

Today, nine of our 12 offices have people who were transferred from another location. In many big companies, significant international experience is a requirement for the top job. Ford, Coca-Cola and Philip Morris, as it happens, are run by Australians. I guess we are attracted to controversy! What is also interesting is that three of Australia's top companies are or until recently were headed by Americans. Go further down in the management ranks and you will find that in today's major corporations, the vast majority of those aspiring to be CEOs have international work experience.

True, there will always be pure local markets and pure local players, but more and more the barriers and borders are coming down. For instance, Paul Volcker is now heading a panel charged with creating international accounting standards that all companies, no matter where headquartered, can adopt.

The OECD has published guide

FUTURE/ B8

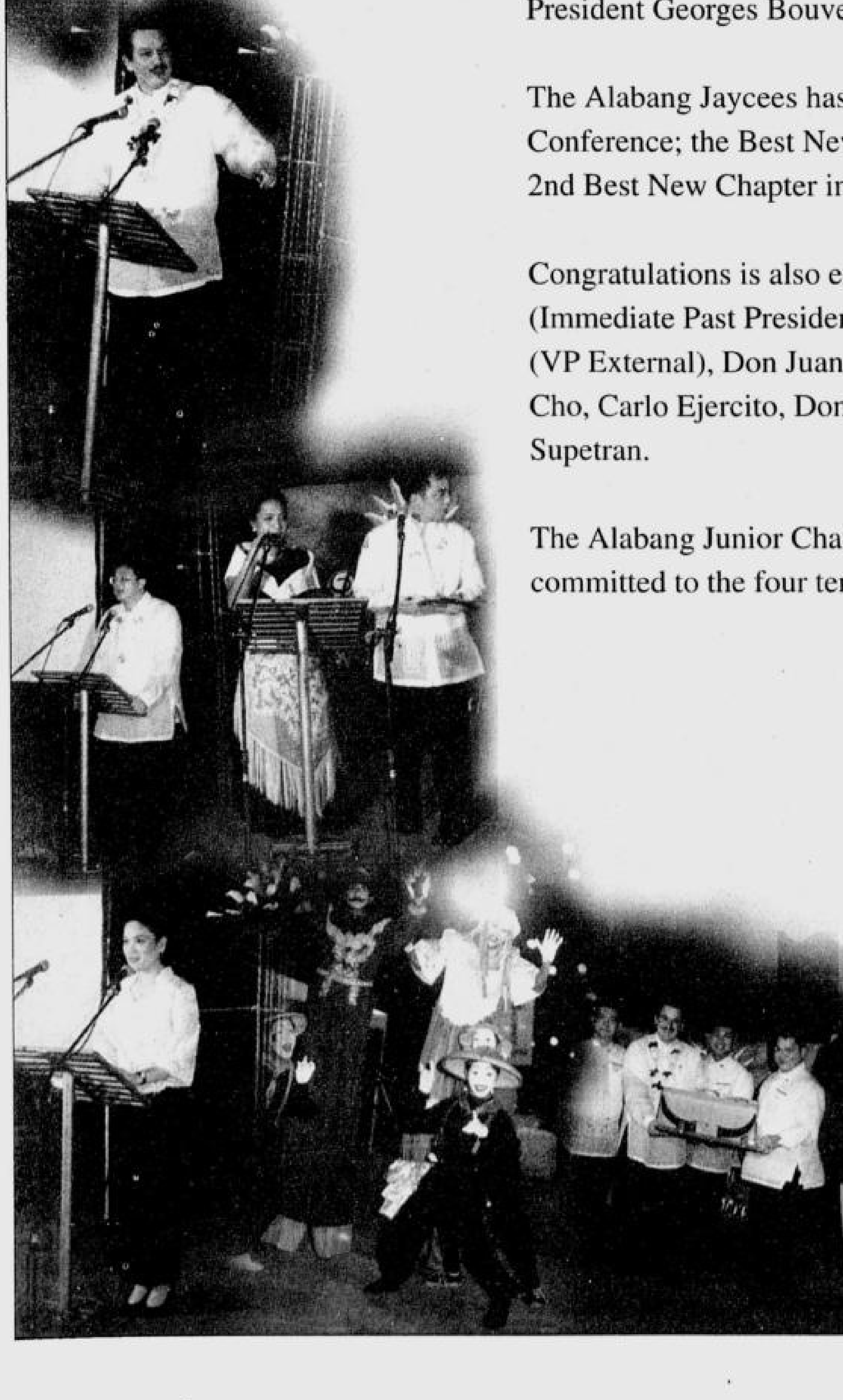
Congratulations!

Congratulations to the successful Grand Induction Ball of the Alabang Jaycees graced by the JCI World President Georges Bouverat held last January 12, 2001 at the Manila Orchidarium.

The Alabang Jaycees has the distinction of winning the Best New Chapter in the Metro Area Conference; the Best New Chapter in the Philippines in the National Congress, Dagupan City; and the 2nd Best New Chapter in the World in the Jaycees World Congress in Sapporo, Japan.

Congratulations is also extended to the 2001 Board: Lourdes Guerrero (President), Ricky Ocampo (Immediate Past President), Jorge Bocobo (EVP), Oscar Coscolluela III (Sec-Gen), Celine R. Madamba (VP External), Don Juan Bagatsing (VP Internal), and Eugene Gison (Treasurer) and all directors: Dick Cho, Carlo Ejercito, Donna Ferro, Robert Libunao, Manuel Llige, Aileen Meliza Sevilla, and Hannah Supetran.

The Alabang Junior Chamber of Commerce is a leadership organization for young professionals committed to the four tenets of the Jaycees: Business, Internationalism, Community, and Individualism.



ALABANG Jaycees INC.
The Alabang Junior Chamber, Inc.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2001
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Trend Spotting LIFESTYLE Home
C1
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection Editor

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By MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ

WHAT triggers stress? Although working conditions have become sophisticated, we are working longer hours and juggling more pressures in our work and personal lives. Society expects us to excel in everything we do.

Writes consultant Mike George in his book, "Learn to Relax," "In the name of civilized progress, we have given ourselves a modern condition, which we call stress."

What about working better under pressure? "If we push ourselves within our limits, we may find success; if we push ourselves to our limits, we will find stress."

In the face of perceived danger, our hormone and adrenaline levels shoot up, diverting more blood to the brain and increasing sensual awareness. During spells of daily stress, our body behaves similarly. If the alarm state continues and is left uncontrolled, this may lead to physical or mental dysfunction.

George says the first step in battling stress is to accept that it is the result of our lifestyles or attitudes. "Increasingly we are expected to be good at everything—not just at work and in the home, but also in the garden, when planning vacations, even while relaxing. We begin to expect so much of ourselves that the places we go and the things we do to unwind become triggers of stress."

George says we need to accept that the stressful lifestyle is intrinsic to life. "If we learn to understand our needs and capabilities, we can take control of stress. Nothing forces stress upon us; we can all keep this modern demon at bay," he says.

When we worry too much about the past or future or are distracted by so many things, we lose touch with something vital to our sense of well-being: the connection between ourselves and the world around us, directed through a present we've taken for granted—sensation.

One method of coping with stress is to re-awaken the senses and use them to reconnect with the world.

The fives senses are the essence of experience, says George. They are the windows into the world. The senses take in impressions from the world and also convey our disposition to others. They are attached to emotional experience and communication.

"Our eyes receive a constant stream of visual messages, but we may also use the eyes to show how we feel. Through our ears we hear the sounds of life while by 'lending an ear' we give comfort to others. In our mouths we can taste an unlimited variety of flavors, but through the same orifice we convey our best jokes and wisest counsel. Touch allows us to experience texture; but can also transmit love and reassurance. Our senses are not merely instruments, but deep-rooted aspects of the self," says George

"If we can recover for them some of the importance they once had for our distant ancestors, we can begin to restore the lost aspects of ourselves, so that mind and body are brought into better equilibrium. And at the same time we can enjoy more fully the rich adventures of our environment. By re-awakening the senses, we learn how to slow down."

As a reaction to the modern world, the health and beauty industries are now capitalizing on this trend of keeping our sensory experiences in harmony.

Store for wellness

BECAUSE life is burdensome enough, we want to embrace ourselves with friendly products that spread comfort and induce relaxation. Essences, the well-being department of Rustan's Makati, aims to be special and valuable to consumers. It represents a fragment of indulgence in a stressed-out society that's in an economic slump.

Essences aims to promote a serene and amicable atmosphere. Its friendliness is reflected in price range—from an affordable P39.50 to P1, 450. Most of the products are natural-based, thereby fascinating the consumers by their gratifying affinity to the earth.

Most of the brands are based in Europe because the ingredients are mostly plant extracts, not synthetics. For instance, the Cliven bath and body products don't use harsh ingredients. They are made of linden extracts, lanolin and milk proteins.

Essenses, naturally, caters to all the senses. The importance on simplicity makes the minimalist interior design soothing to the eye. The lines and patterns are spare, color is used with restraint so that the attention goes to the products and services. There is openness and lightness in space. The soothing or upbeat music (choice of easy listening pieces, New Age or Claude

TO DE-STRESS/ p.C2

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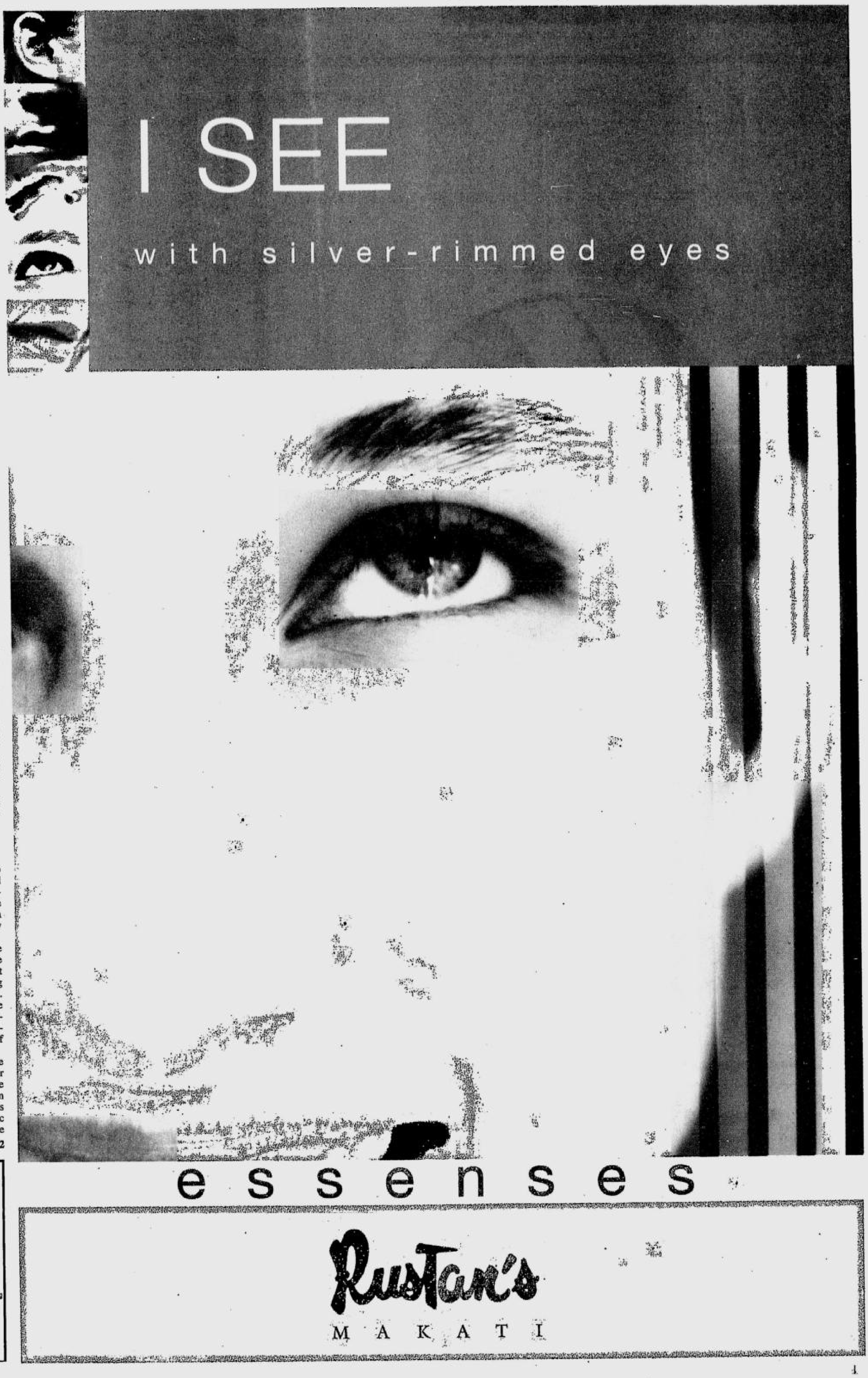


TEA Bar, catered by chef Markus Gfeller, offers nutritious meals. Shelves display fragrances.

To de-stress...

PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

MINIMALIST design brings attention to the products.

(From page C1)

Challe's Buddha Bar series) wafts the air.

For the sense of taste, the Tea Bar offers a menu of low-salt, low-fat dishes. The food is served simple dignity. If you want an energy booster, get a load the Balance Restorer and the Energy Supplement for added vitality.

For the sense of smell, there's a wide range of aromatherapy products. One of its star brands in this category is Sprayology, winner of the Best Overall Product for 2000 in the Extracts Show in New York. It borrows from homeopathic medicine wherein little tablets melt under the tongue so that the vitamins and minerals go straight into the system without having to pass through the digestive system. Nutrients are sprayed under your tongue so they can be taken in by the system. The spray caters to all kinds of conditions like female problems, jet lag, energy booster for men, youth rejuvenation and nutrition boosting.

The fragrances are unique. For young consumers, there are shelves filled with scents that you can almost eat like chocolate fudge.

Soular Therapy, a scent from the astrological aromatherapy line, is based on your zodiac sign. Demeter fragrances are scents only from natural materials, most of which are single notes.

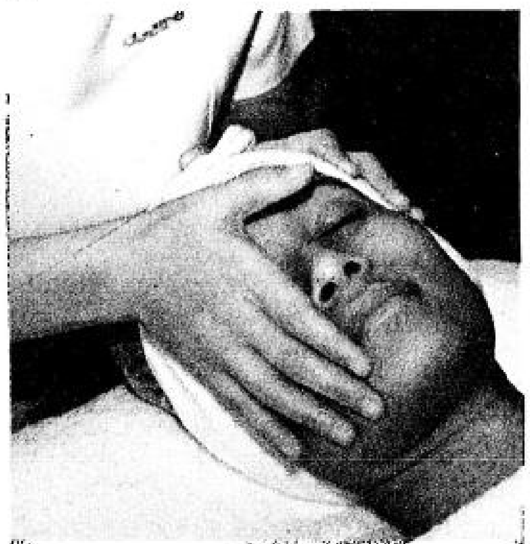
For touch, customers can get facials or massages. Aestheticians can also teach customers DIY home massages. The massages aim to detoxify, hydrate or relax. The Baby Care line has massage products for the mother to apply on the baby.

In keeping up with its commitment to nature, Essences sells hairbrushes that are made from recyclable products such as vegetable fibers, sea sponges, non-toxic aluminum and beech wood that can be refinished without varnishes.

For hair care, its best product is Cliven Natura made from ceramides that help rebuild the hair structure.

There are makeup bars and counters where clients can take lessons on how to use the products. Some of the makeup brands are done by famous European pros such as Serge Louis Alvarez, Diego dalla Palma and Jean-Claude Biguine.

Indeed, this is a hip and budget-friendly alternative to Rustan's prestige floor.



ARE your cheeks puffy? Are you about to get a double chin? Institut Clarins has developed the contouring facial that removes the poisons in the lymphatic system and keeps your skin firm. Clarins also offers a stress-relieving body treatment using plant oils that ease fatigue and a slimming and detoxifying body treatment for spongy skin.

PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO
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The gift of hands

MASSAGE is the unification of mind and body as they work together to find calmness. Givers of massage can be calmed by the rhythm of the strokes and learn to free their minds of worldly anxieties.

Receivers of massage dissipate the toxins that plug our veins, facilitating the flow of blood to our heart. Massage releases the harmful lactic acid that builds up during stress and exercise. Endomorphin production is incited, making the recipient less vulnerable to pain.

CUSTOMERS learn how to do the contouring facial at home using the Clarins Lift Minceur. Just under the epidermis, the skin is drained by an extremely fine and dense lymphatic network that acts as a detoxifying agent. Linked to venous circulation, lymphatic circulation ensures the elimination of waste accumulated in tissues. Although venous circulation is capable of eliminating small amounts of waste, lymphatic circulation takes care of evacuating the larger molecules. Its ability to drain these molecules is essential in maintaining facial radiance, a youthful-looking appearance and well-defined features.

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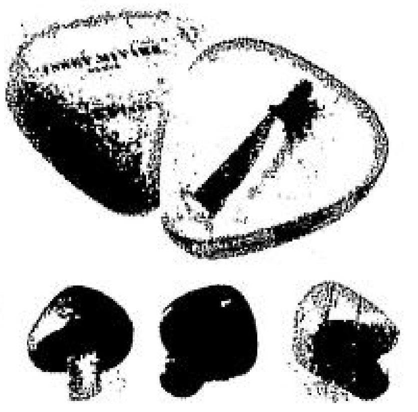
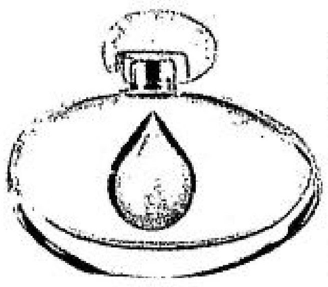
Sensual enhancement

SMELL has the most sophisticated and beguiling effect on us. Certain aromas can affect our moods. Coffee beans, pepper and citrus can be stimulating. Warm, fresh-baked bread and fragrant teas are soothing.

One aspect of the quest for relaxation is to seek out the smells that help us feel most contented and calm. Through experiment, we might find an oil, soap or fragrance that can bring back happy memories.

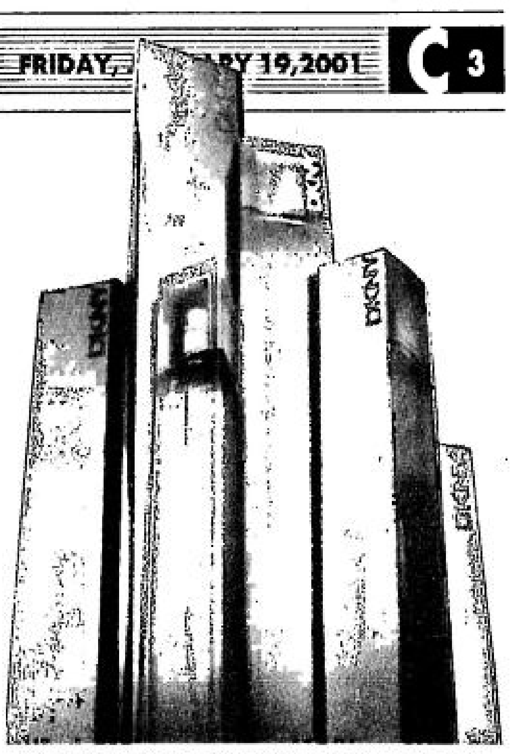
On a physical level, our sense of smell can help us enjoy our breathing. Once we have recognized an interesting aroma, long, deep breaths will give us gratification, as breath and scent commingle in an intimate duet of fulfillment.



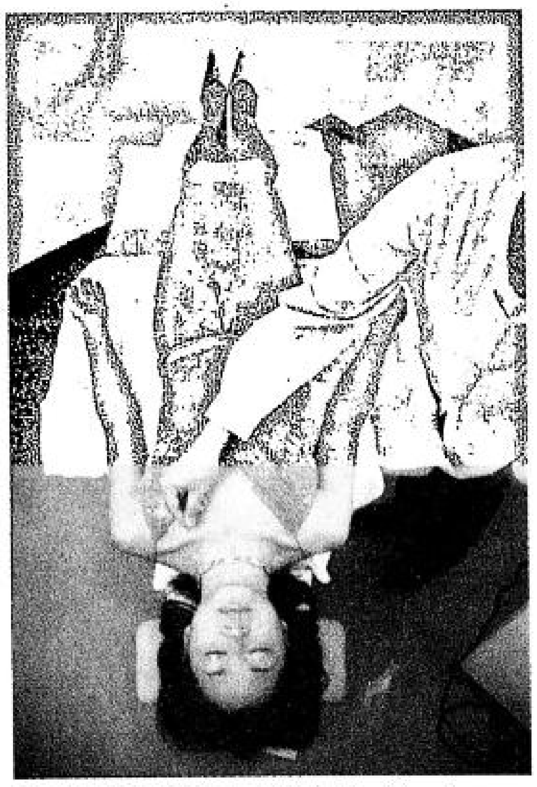


ESSENCE OF FEMININITY. Estée Lauder's Intuition is a fragrance defined by the symmetry of three olfactive movements: ambery warmth, skin-like sensuality and textured floralcy. Like its namesake, Intuition is built on a balance of what is visible and what radiates from within. Amber imbues the fragrance with its warmth, depth and sensuality. Voluminaire creates the smooth-as-silk skin-like sensuality. A hybrid wood note with an accord of precious woods like silver maple and ebony ensure depth and a lasting sensuality.

HEART'S FRAGRANT SOUL. Visionary architect Issey Miyake loves to take eternal symbols and come up with bold new interpretations. He has chosen to reinvent the heart in different colors depending on the fragrance: ivory for l'Eau d'Issey, with its sensual floral and woody notes, a vibrant deep red for le Feu d'Issey, with its floral milky amber scent, bright white for le Feu d'Issey Light, with its fresh floral fragrance and the same milky amber base and blue for l'Eau d'Issey pour Homme and its spicy woody freshness.



URBAN FLORAL. DKNY's new fragrance is pure liquid energy. The accords blend a vibrant burst of blood orange drenched in refreshing chilled vodka. Infused with vine-ripe tomato leaf, the effect is fresh, green, natural and wet. This accord blends yellow waterlilies, green coral orchids and sunny daffodils.



ACUPUNCTURE, modality in Traditional Chinese Medicine, opens the energy pathways.

PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO
INTERCARE CENTERS
TEL. 890-3378 TO -79, 8420 KALAYAAN AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
TEL. 722-1846, 724-6631, 26-A EISENHOWER, GREENHILLS

The flow of 'qi'

IN ORIENTAL medicine, *qi* (*ki* or *chi*) is the energy that flows between opposite poles of *yin* and *yang*. *Qi* passes through 12 main meridians in the body. Each conduit is linked with an organ, and along each are points that may be activated to remedy ailments, caused by barriers to *qi*. When *qi* moves easily through our bodies, we feel at ease. When *qi* is obstructed, this may lead to stress or sickness.

Finding a local practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is the best method to gain from the natural therapies of the East. The TCM practitioner can explain how to balance your body's energies.

The fitness paradox

ALTHOUGH exercise is touted as the way to be maintain youth, health and attractiveness, stress counselor Mike George says being obsessed with it has a downside.

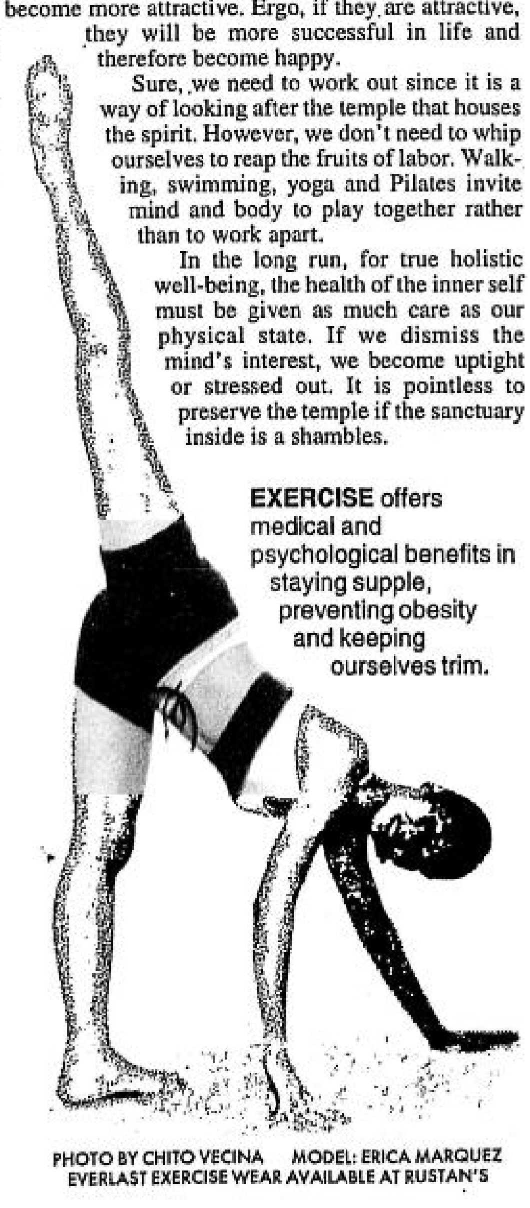
The paradox lies in the fact that pushing our bodies to the limits taxes our muscles and deprives them of oxygen. The body releases harmful lactic acid into the muscle to make up the oxygen shortfall. This deficiency forces us to relax because we are physically exhausted.

"But there is nothing so worthy or beneficial about getting tired in this way—it is against nature to force our bodies to cope with insufficient oxygen combined with increased levels of toxins," says George.

Most people believe that if they look after their body, lose weight, or pamper themselves, they will become more attractive. Ergo, if they are attractive, they will be more successful in life and therefore become happy.

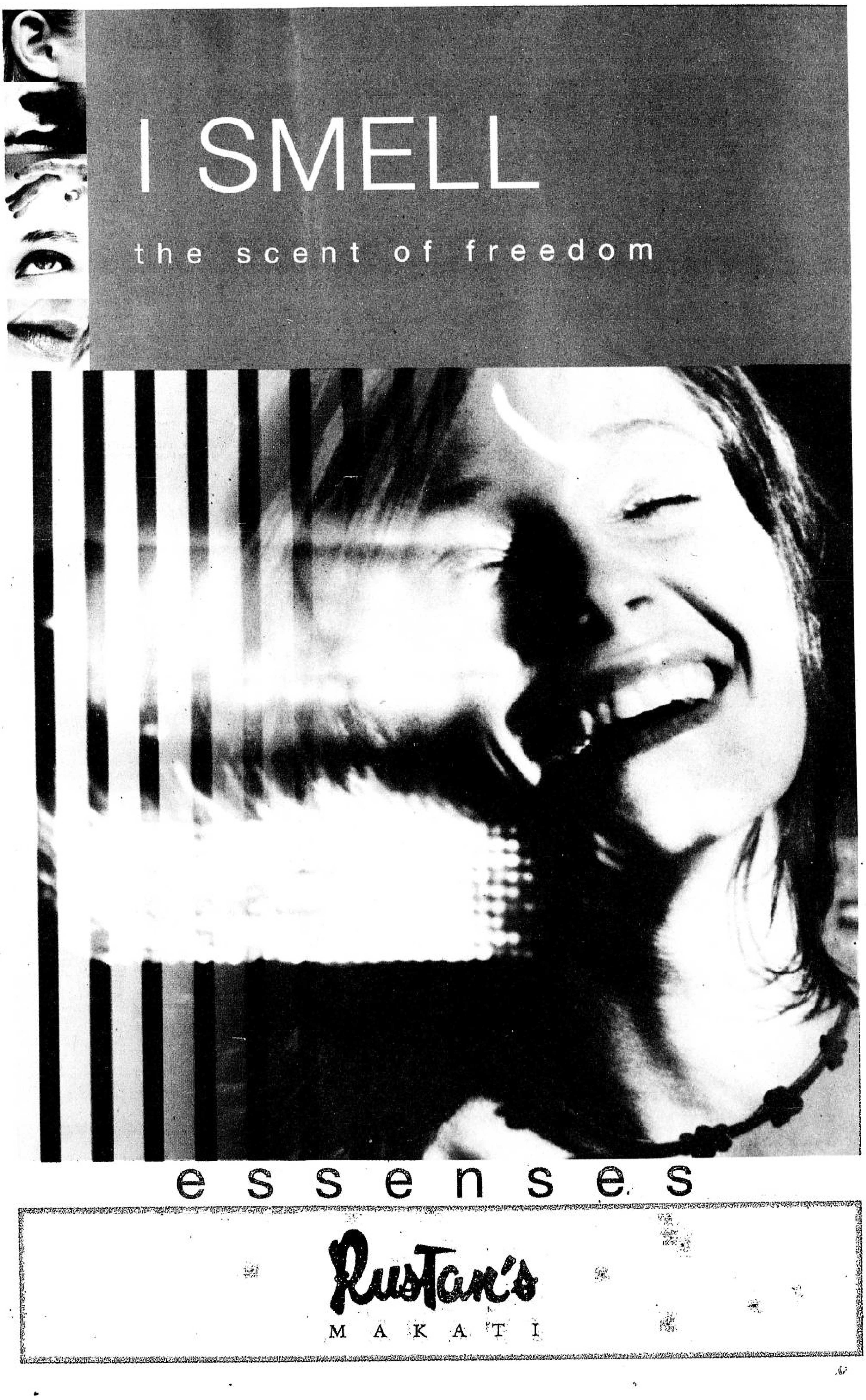
Sure, we need to work out since it is a way of looking after the temple that houses the spirit. However, we don't need to whip ourselves to reap the fruits of labor. Walking, swimming, yoga and Pilates invite mind and body to play together rather than to work apart.

In the long run, for true holistic well-being, the health of the inner self must be given as much care as our physical state. If we dismiss the mind's interest, we become uptight or stressed out. It is pointless to preserve the temple if the sanctuary inside is a shambles.



EXERCISE offers medical and psychological benefits in staying supple, preventing obesity and keeping ourselves trim.

PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA MODEL: ERICA MARQUEZ
EVERLAST EXERCISE WEAR AVAILABLE AT RUSTAN'S



Contra-technology cosmetic

ASK any fashionista the trends for 2001, and the answers tend to derive from the foreign glossies. He or she hasn't witnessed the context of how the trends originated and developed. So it appears like the Filipino fashionista is mindlessly aping Western styles, much to the dismay of nationalists.

Oftentimes nationalists criticize the lifestyle sections and magazines for being so elitist in reporting about trends that are far removed from the realities of Filipino life. What's a lifestyle section to do if readers follow Vogue, W, In Style and Vanity Fair and expect nothing less?

In the so-called spirit of nationalism, should we adopt the hair and makeup of the Yakan and have everybody staring at us when we ride the bus or jeepneys? Should we chuck the corporate suit, albeit drab and Western, in favor of the naked tattooed body?

Sometimes it's difficult to tell the difference between blind imitation of Western fashion and global uniformity brought about by consumerism and technology. Or are they the same?

This universal trend was pointed out by Daniel Blanchet, Clarins artistic director, in a press conference for Southeast Asian journalists in Singapore.

"It's not good or bad. You just have to be aware of it."

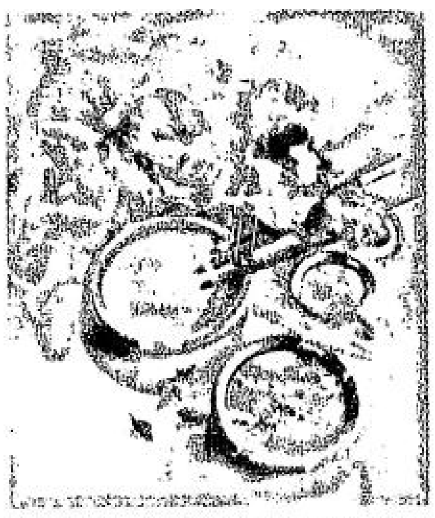
Authentic values

Blanchet also disapproved of the lifestyle of the cyber techies who are lost in the virtual world.

"They don't go out. They don't open their windows. They lose the sense of what's rational. It's easy for them to connect but not how to get out of it," he said.

Asked what's that got to do with Clarins' Impressionist Lights makeup for spring-summer 2001, Blanchet replied that being aware of what's happening in the world is one way for the company to go against a lifestyle trend.

In the past few makeup collections, Clarins has been pegging its makeup palettes on the need for authentic values. The emotional reaction of the person to the surrounding has become a makeup inspiration. It started with last year's Colors of Happiness, marking the start of the gold trend. Late this year, the Stormy Accents collection's palette of warm colors and earth tones, signified human emotions and solidity of the spirit.


IMPRESSIONIST Lights looks like a painter's palettes. Rustan's will launch this makeup in the summer.

To be launched this summer, Impressionist Lights is a way of coping with the onslaught of technology by reaching back to an earlier era. Since stress has become a norm in everyday life, consumers want to surround themselves with products that evoke warmth.

The color palettes reproduce the images of gardens, inspired by Impressionist painters. The makeup captures the reflections in water and the changing colors in the morning and night. For the fair skin, the Morning Sun palette consists of golden caramel with drifts of pink, violet and white. The Bright Sun palette, for darker skins, features bronze tones, red and caramel. The eye color combinations are a contrast of lavender blue and burnt orange, bronze and peach and amethyst and emerald green.

These natural colors aim to enchant the users by their closeness to the earth. Remembrances of the past stir romantic feelings. Manual expertise, not machines, was important in packaging the makeup.

Trend leader

Blanchet and Clarins makeup artist Thibault Vabre wanted to create a powerful identity to the brand. Clarins was originally a skin-care brand that developed makeup colors to enhance the complexion. Over time, customers wanted something upbeat.

"We didn't want to create a fashion trend. We want to be trend leaders, " said Blanchet.

To achieve that goal, the makeup artist's job is the same as that of an architect or designer—to analyze what's happening around him.

"Fashion is not only linked to design but also to the way life is evolving. It can be gardens, the way houses look, the way a table is dressed, and cars," said Blanchet.

He cites three kinds of designers. One is the avant-garde designer who is always ahead of his time. The second is the designer who creates a story and reinforces his trademarks. The third is the designer who designs from what he sees around him, without necessarily making any references to the past or creating anything trendy.

Blanchet cites Philippe Starck as an example of an avant-garde designer who interpreted materials according to his vision. However, consumers found his works far removed from reality that they couldn't buy them. Today, he works for lifestyle companies and creates designs based on consumer needs.

Body shadow

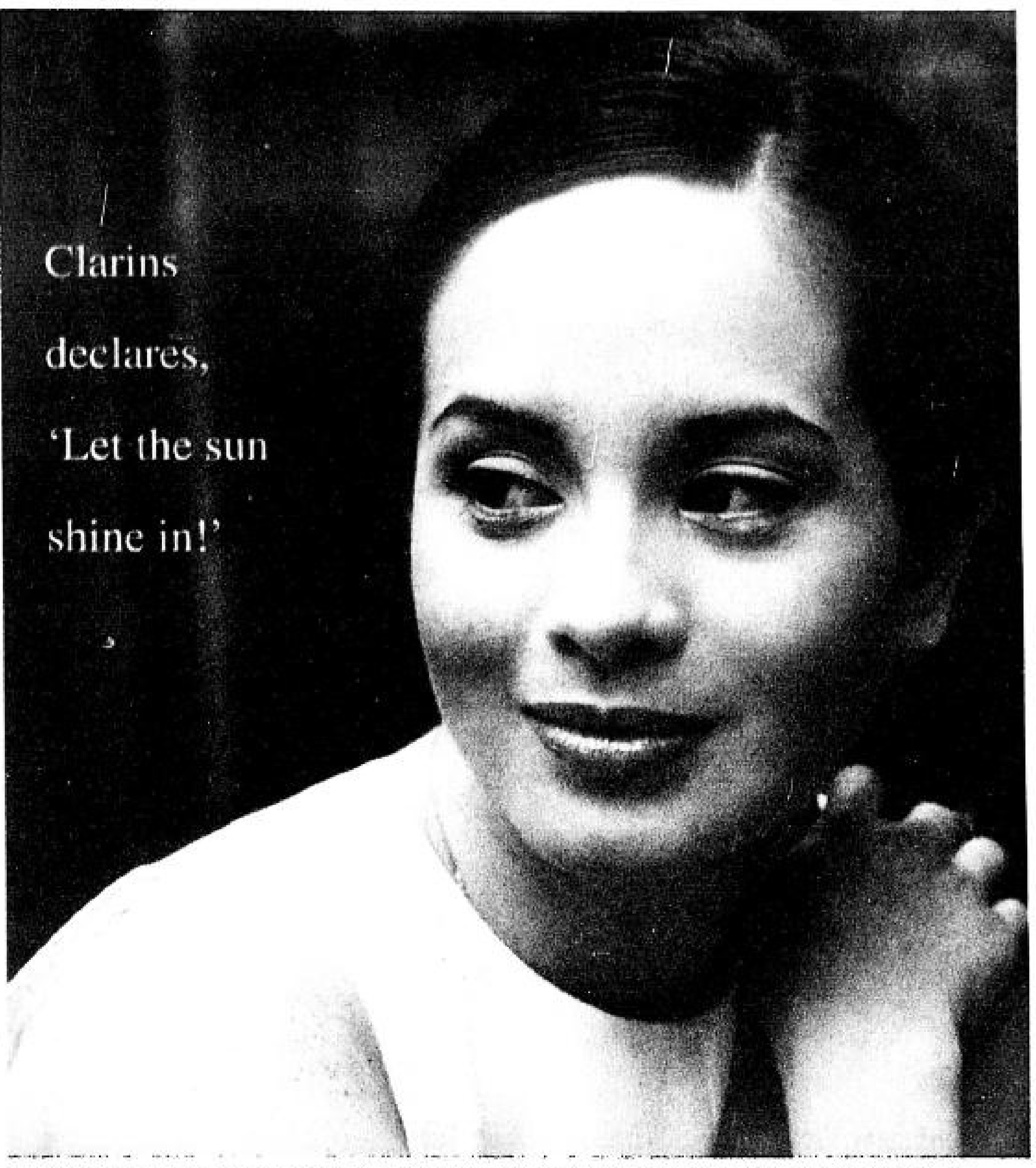
Blanchet compares the makeup artist's job to that of a designer. He's got to be wired to the present scene as well as imaginative enough to put his personal interpretation.

"You're analyzing today's trends, interpreting your philosophy and applying that strategy on a woman's face," said Blanchet.

In the future, Blanchet predicts the popularity of body makeup that will accent assets and camouflage flaws.

"As fashion becomes more revealing, there will be a need to cover imperfections. There will be body shadows and highlights."

Creating a makeup collection takes time. Just like in fashion, the themes must show continuity from season to season. At the same time, cosmetic companies keep improving the texture and wearability of makeup. Makeup artists and creative directors attend industrial and chemical trade fairs to learn of new ingredients. They have to adhere to ban ingredients that can be hazardous to the consumer's health.


Clarins declares, 'Let the sun shine in!'

LUCY Torres-Gomez wears Morning Sun powder for the face, the Blue Garden for the eyes.
PHOTO BY WAHOO GUERRERO, HAIR AND MAKEUP BY TOTO AND RUBEN FOR PATRICK ROSAS, DRESS BY HERBENCH

Road test

Impressionist Lights Makeup is lighter because it uses micronized nylon for a sheer and smooth look. Clarins invented "auto focus" pigments that lighten shadows and minimize flaws. Under the light, your skin will have a healthy glow. If you're in a place with poor lighting conditions; the makeup will not look washed out. The pigments are stabilized so that they won't separate in an oily complexion.

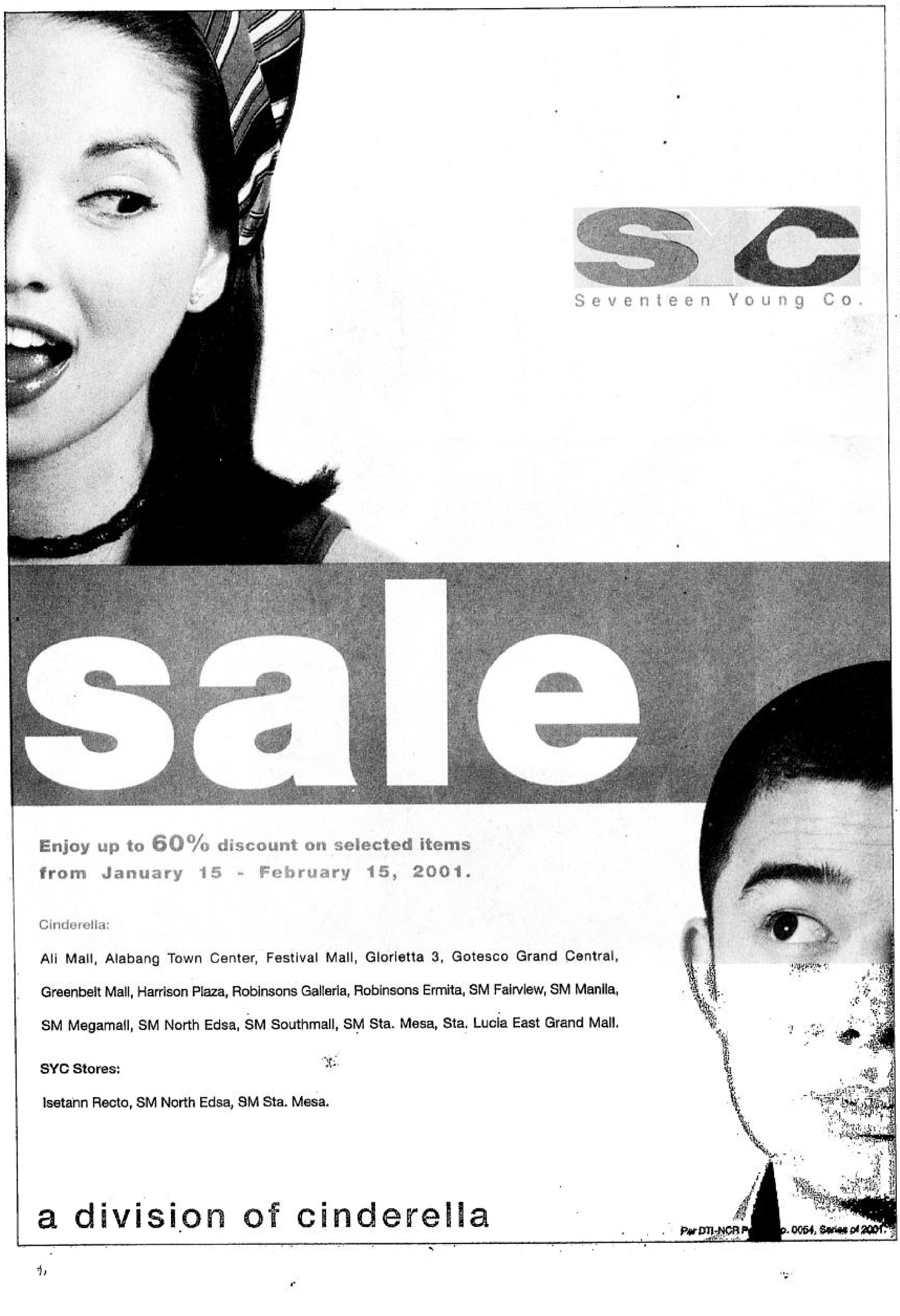
The INQUIRER has tested Impressionist Lights on subjects with fair skins. And it lives up to its concept. The makeup glides smoothly over the skin. Under natural or artificial light, the colors look natural and the skin looks translucent.

I tried the burnt orange eye shadow for work. It just gave a hint of color but it lasted the whole working day.

Blanchet says that although the products are designed to suit as many consumers as possible, regardless of the climate and skin type, it's still difficult, however, to meet everybody's needs.

"I don't think any product is suitable for everybody. Eventually we will come up with special textures that are targeted to specific customers. The most important thing is to get advice in the counter," he said.

Marge C. Enriquez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Per DTI-NCR P o. 0054, Series of 2001.

Too natural as to be preternatural

UNITED Kingdom-based beauty and bath chain The Body Shop "awakens" to colors of nature in Awakenings, its soon-to-be-launched spring/summer makeup range.

In a regional launch held at the exclusive Four Seasons Hotel in Singapore last week, Chase Aston, well-known makeup artist and international consultant to The Body Shop's Colourings makeup brand, said that the beauty buzzwords this season is all about achieving an ultra-feminine but floral look as opposed to last season's feminine but sultry face.

"Everybody is going to back to basics and reversing their lifestyles," says Aston, who counts the original Spice Girls Geri Halliwell, Melanie B, Melanie C, Emma Bunton and Victoria Beckham among his regular clients. He has also made up celebrities like Britney Spears and Claire Danes and models Cindy Crawford and Kate Moss for top international publications.

"It reflects an inner calm and serenity."

This back-to-nature stance—think sunlight, water, flowers and fresh summery visions—was reflected in the video with Monet-inspired nature clips shown to the Southeast Asian fashion and beauty editors during the intimate launch. In addition, the official Awakenings poster shows an Asian model set against flowing petals, cherry blossom branches and water.

Combinations

The collection itself is a melding of petal-fresh shades like lavender, pink and peach—which the company has dubbed as the season's "new neutrals" and combined with elemental colors such as platinum, fawn and gold which, surprisingly, still glitters even after several fashion seasons. There are also micro-soft powders and pearlized metallics, touches of iridescent sheen to achieve that natural summer glow.

How Aston applies the makeup itself is reflective of this new sensuality; he hardly uses makeup brushes, blending and applying products with his fingers.

Even the product design look toward nature; the Lip Mist lip gloss for example, is contained in pebble-shaped pots with sliding lids. These shimmery washes also contain Community Traded organic olive oil for maximum moisture and can also double as eye gloss. The Shimmer Dust, meanwhile, is contained in space-saving stackable containers while the Duo Sparticles offers two-in-one shades in one pot.

Dual

Incidentally, such dual use is fast becoming a hot trend in makeup. In our beauty forecast in this month's Metro Magazine, we predicted the invasion of multipurpose products designed with today's growing number of woman-on-the-go in mind.

"Today's changing lifestyle demand multi-use products that not only has excellent quality but functional and well-priced as well," says Aston.

This recent campaign also highlights the importance of the Asian market to the British chain.

"Awakenings show the world how important Asia is," says Suzy Santoso, head of product and marketing for The Body Shop Asia Pacific. "We've become more understanding of regionalization and we're looking at cultures. We want to be global but local as well. We'll be launching more products that are specifically tailored for the Asian skin."

She credits the decentralization to French CEO Patrick Gournay, who joined the company in late 1998. Before his arrival, Santoso says everything was ran from UK. Gournay mapped out a group where The Body Shops around the world were divided into four offices to give regional markets opportunities and room to grow.

"Patrick is great because he has respect for humanity," says Santoso. "He is a man who can run a big business and not take away The Body Shop's values."

And where does The Body Shop founder Anita Roddick figure in this changing equation?

"Anita is going to be something different," she notes. "She is a woman of ideas and she will continue exploring ideas, humanity and nature. She will continue to review products and concepts every quarter and she's happy that company is being taken to the next level."

Harriet Ann Dy

THE BODY Shop makeup artist Chase Aston and Asian model wearing the spring-summer look, inspired by nature and Impressionist painters

Banana Republic finally comes home to the real banana

By Harriet Ann Dy

THREE of the world's favorite casual and workwear brands, Gap, Banana Republic and Old Navy are now available in Manila.

But before you look for Gap's ubiquitous dark blue logo, you can get their products only at @theshop, a 75-sq-m retail store at the second floor of the Tesoro Building on Arnaiz Avenue in Makati City.

"We're not a franchise; rather, we have a retail agreement to distribute the brands," says Rob Tesoro, operations manager of InStyle Apparel Inc., the authorized retailer and distributor of the popular brands.

This move marks Gap Inc.'s official entry to the local market. While Gap, Old Navy and Banana Republic export overruns are a familiar sight in Christmas bazaars and *tiangges*, it was only a few months ago that the company decided to formalize their presence here. Under the agreement, @theshop will be offering selections from their current collections. Aside from the brands, they're also offering Pret @ Patis, the ready-to-wear line of local designer Patis Tesoro.

Young Tesoro heads Gap Inc. distributorship that covers Gap, Old Navy and Banana Republic

At present, Old Navy stores are located exclusively within the US while Banana Republic has locations in the US and Canada. Meanwhile, Gap stores are only available in the US, UK, Canada, France, Japan and Germany. There are currently more than 3,000 company-owned stores spread over those countries.

"While we continue to test on a limited basis other marketing and distribution channels, our current strategy focuses on the above-mentioned countries and continuing expansion through company-owned stores and operated stores," said a statement on the company's website.

Manila site

In Manila, the idea of distributing Gap products came from Gap Inc. Interestingly, their Manila sourcing office is also located within the Tesoro building premises.

Despite the fact that the store opened quietly just before Christmas, it didn't take long for shoppers to discover the tiny boutique. "We are very pleased with the sales over the holidays," he says. "If the store will be making the sales like now, we'd survive the malls."

The Los Angeles-educated executive was brought in by the elder Tesoros, specifically his aunt, Beng Tesoro, to run the new business. He brings with him years of retail experience with companies like Armani and Guess?, where he worked his way up from being stock guy to merchandiser. Originally tasked to just train the sales associates last September, he has decided to stay on.

He describes his management style as democratic. "The store runs on an open-door policy," he says. "All the employees are equal in stature. They can come to me; we love ideas and are very much motivated by new things as well."

Interestingly, Rob is also of the first of the third-generation Tesoros to work for the family business. The business is better known as retailer of native handicrafts and products, and the new store is the family's first venture into fashion retail. Style-wise, he describes his personal style as "very Banana Republic. I love BR's merchandise—its clean-cut silhouettes fit into my working wardrobe perfectly," he says.

Top sellers

Bestsellers include stretch poplin shirts, wide V-neck three-fourth-sleeve tops, Old Navy surf capris for women and Gap denim jackets. And of course, there is the basic Gap T-shirt, which has been predictably flying off the shelves. Loyal customers are said to be coming back every week to check on new merchandise; a glimpse of their guest book reveals a virtual who's who of Manila's young and fashionable set.

This, despite a steeper-than-usual price tag; a beautiful single-button, Italian-made BR suit jacket, for example, retails for almost P10,000. "We get everything from one of Gap's main distribution offices. Even if it's made here, we have to buy it from them and import them back."

In a statement in their website, Gap Inc. says they "work with third-party manufacturers in more than 50 countries... and has a global network of more than 80 employees who monitor factories on an ongoing basis."

One of things the factories is supposed to do, says Rob, is to burn merchandise that do not pass the company's strict quality control standards. "The overruns do not pass consumer satisfaction levels," he notes. "If you launder them, they'll fall apart."

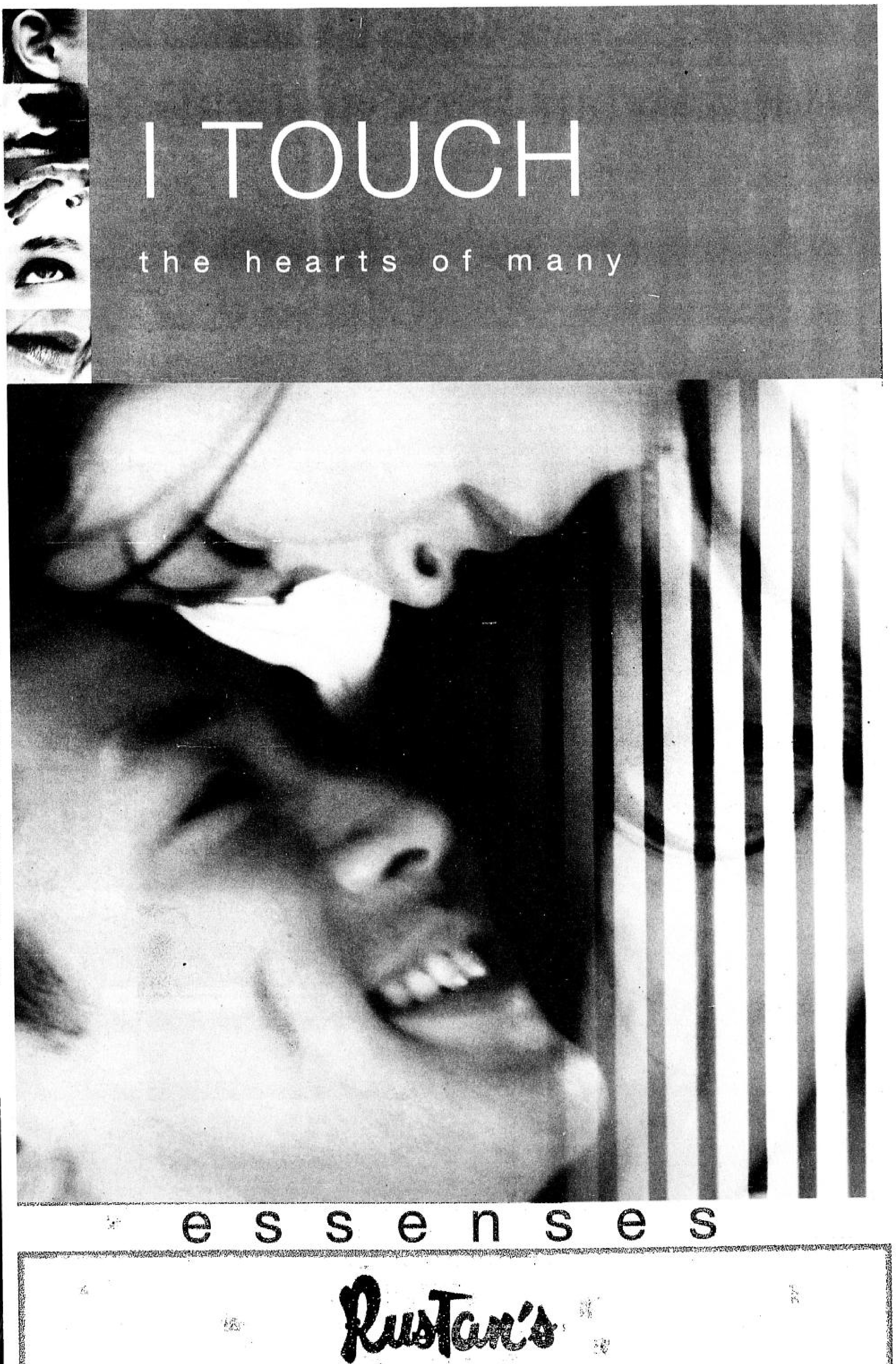
All creative direction, however, comes from Gap Inc.'s product development offices in New York City where designers, product managers and graphic artists work together to come up with the season's look. Each brand is marketed by its own marketing team with headquarters in San Francisco. These in-house talent pockets are in charge of everything from hangtags to posters, billboards and TV commercials.

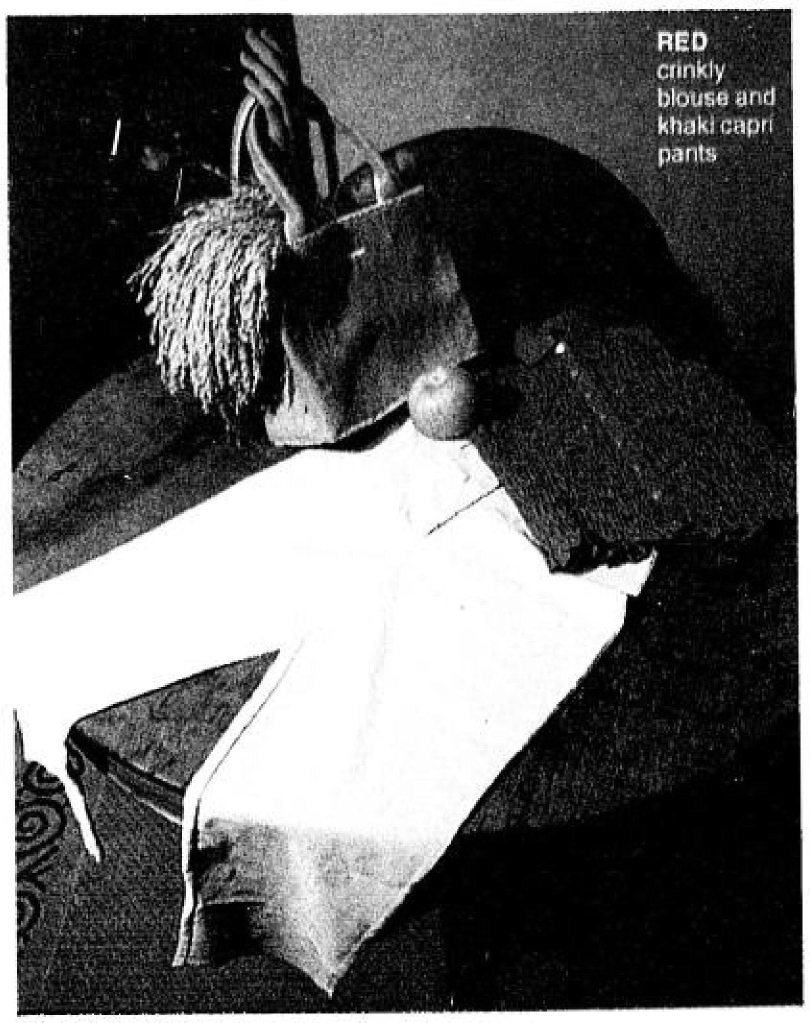
Gap was founded in 1969 by Don and Doris Fisher. They opened their first store in San Francisco. Today, the company is a global venture with revenues topping the $11 billion mark. It is headed by Gap Inc. CEO Millard Drexler and employs more than 140,000 people worldwide.

ROB TESORO. At the top of the heap

PHOTOS: CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION: ALBERT AVELLANA

TESORO WEARS BR. Shiny pants hark back to the disco era. Orange pants from Old Navy





RED crinkly blouse and khaki capri pants

STRIPED crinkly blouse and denim pants

BURGUNDY blouse and crinkly skirt

Style at your beck and call

The choices afforded to the smart and chic dresser nowadays are wide and exhaustive

By Camille T. Cruz
Photos by Mike Alquinto

I HAVE spent a lot of time in the retail environment. I remember visiting Cinderella frequently to check out the shoes. I checked this pair of red flat ballet-like shoes with two strips of knot detailing in green and blue.

When it came to clothes, there was not much to see in the early '80s. There were a few stores with foreign flavor. There was no Kamiseta, Bayo or Regatta. Kashieca existed though and was popular for its shoes at the time. Early on, it was rather difficult to choose or identify with style preference simply because I hadn't found mine just yet.

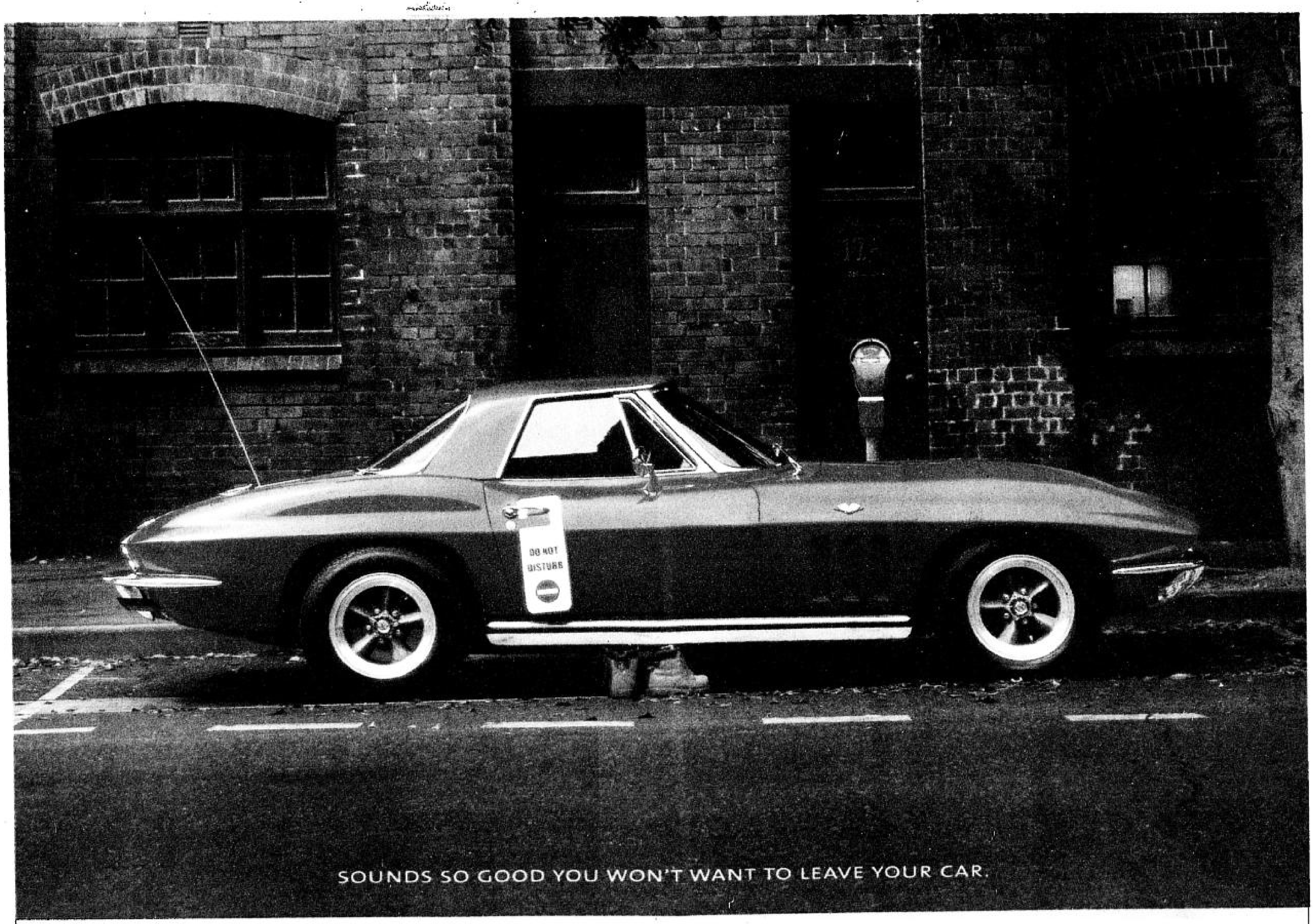
The situation has changed. Now you can see daily wear with a trendy flair. No need to travel far to find trendy clothes. They are readily available and easy to wear. These clothes are simple. Stores like Kamiseta are producing clothes that are basic, fun, comfortable and fit for the casual lifestyle.

Kamiseta won the Philippine Retailer of the Year Award in the small fashion category from the Philippine Retailers Association and the Department of Trade and Industry.

The Glorietta branch won several awards from Ayala Land including Store of the Year for Ayala Center Makati, Store Operations Excellence Award and Customer Service Special Award.

BRIGHT lime green scoop neck top and black knee-length skirt

ALL ITEMS FROM KAMISETA
2/F NEW WING, AYALA ALABANG TOWN CENTER
PRICE RANGE: P550-P 990
LOCATION: TONTON SANTOS' RESIDENCE



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A housewife grows unusual trees and shrubs

CYNTHIA Borda and her beehive ginger plants
PHOTO BY LYN RILLON

By Tita V. Giron

REMEMBER Johnny Appleseed, the famous American pioneer who planted apple seeds on miles and miles of land? Well, we met a Filipino housewife who can match his obsession for sowing seeds of trees.

Like Appleseed, our local tree lady grows her trees by the thousands. And she starts them from seeds, too, not by some high-tech propagation techniques like cloning or grafting.

When we met housewife Cynthia Borda in her tree farm several years ago, she was preparing a big shipment of peculiar-looking seedlings for a buyer in Manila. She grew them from seeds she had gathered in the mountain and in the remote barrios of Panay, she told us.

She added, "I did not know the name of the mother trees when I first saw them. But right away, I spotted their potential as good reforestation materials. I also fell in love with the unusual gray color of the leaves and matching yellow flowers." She gathered all the seeds she could find and germinated them in her garden.

Without knowing it, she was propagating the few surviving *Acacia crassicarpa* trees that a foreigner brought to the Philippines many years ago. Borda has planted enough seedlings of this tree to supply big reforestation and landscaping projects.

The proofs of her incurable obsession are all over the tree farm which used to be a mountain resort. On the rolling terrain are various fruit trees like avocado, jack fruit, *rambutan*, *santol*, lemon, mango, guava, etc.

She hasn't stopped collecting seeds yet. And she still sows them manually in her tree farm. But she has a new obsession these days. She is planting seeds of native food trees that are in danger of disappearing from local backyards. Right now, she grows thousands of native trees called *libas*, *berya* or *batuan* and noni species.

"I am now interested in unusual fruit bearing trees and shrubs," she disclosed. Two of her most recent acquisitions are the Magic Berry and the *ariba*.

Interesting trees

Young folks will not know what *libas* is unless they come from a family that sticks to traditional cooking. According to Borda, Visayan folks use the leaves of *libas* to give dishes a sour taste. The leaves are also used to remove fishy taste and odor.

"*Berya* is a tree with fruits that resemble *batuan*, another native species. It has round and flat fruits that are sour when they're still green, sweet and sour when the color becomes yellow-orange, and very sweet when they are ripe and red. They say it aids digestion," Borda explained.

The *ariba* fruit is something else. It has a nondescript shape that looks like a cross between an *atis* and a *guyabano*, but not quite. The texture of the skin is like *atis* and the seeds are those of *guyabano*. The taste is deliciously sweet and creamy with a hint of star apple.

"It is most exciting. Our *balikbayan* visitors call it *cherrimoya*. Here in the South, we call it *ariba*," the tree lady said. She sent us samples of the fruit during the peak fruiting season a few months ago. Each of the fruit weighed about 500 grams.

The Miracle Berry, we are quite sure, will be a hit when Borda's seedlings are mature enough to be released in the market. We tasted the ripe berry and knew right away why it got its name. The juice coats the taste buds with a substance that sweetens everything that is sour. PDI photographer Lyn Rillon sampled the berry and chased it with a bite of calamansi. She swore that it was like eating calamansi candy.

Acacia can save bats

The tree lady believes that her *Acacia crassicarpa* can stop the decreasing population of giant bats in the forest of Subic.

"The bats are moving away because trees are disappearing. The immediate solution is to plant *crassicarpa* because it is a fast-growing tree that bears fruits which bats love to eat," she said.

Borda added that the tree has been proven to stop soil erosion as well. Moreover, it is drought-tolerant and insect-resistant. "It is also a very neat tree. It doesn't shed leaves as often as other trees do."

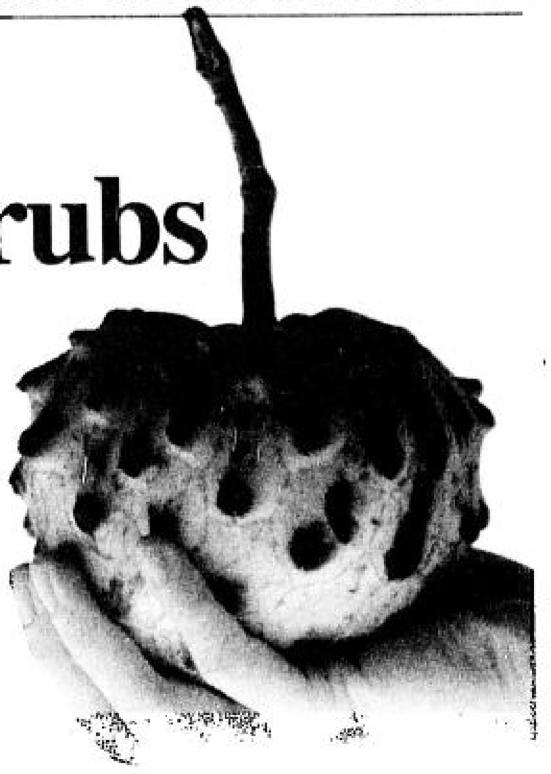
Beehive flowers

Unusual trees are not her only obsession these days. She has turned to mass-production of cutflower ginger plants. Among the varieties in the farm are exotic torch gingers with red, pink and light pink flowers.

"Beehive gingers are more fascinating," she pointed out. To prove her point, she showed us giant clumps of gingers with dozens of beehive flowers that emerged from the ground.

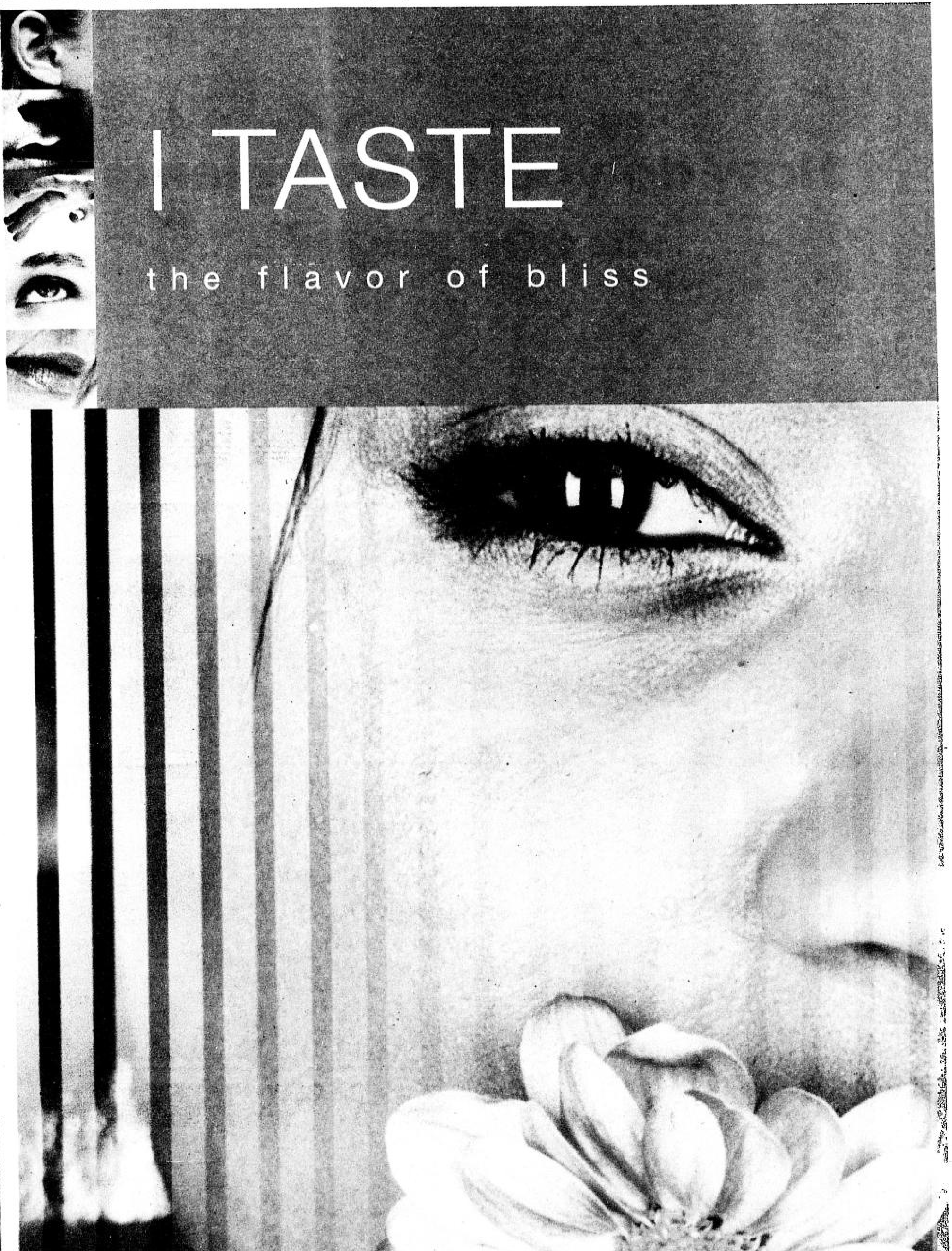
"Right now, they're only used for flower arrangements. But I am told that some folks use the sap of the flowers to shampoo their hair. It makes the hair very shiny," she said.

Folks interested to know more about the tree lady's interesting obsessions can text her at (0919) 837-3808.



ARIBA fruit looks like an *atis* but tastes like *guyabano*.
PHOTO BY MIKE ALQUINTO

NONI tree



I TASTE
the flavor of bliss
essenses
Rustan's
MAKATI

Solving our garbage problem

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

HOW can we solve our gargantuan garbage problem? This is what concerned Metro Manilans have been asking. We can't incinerate, we can't dispose them at dumpsites, since we can't find appropriate compacting and other types of construction which may be too expensive at present.

As of this writing, our garbage is piling sky-high at street corners and street islands, everywhere and anywhere. But as no municipality or island here wants to destroy itself by playing host to other people's trash, what is the alternative?

Since the disposal job has become monstrous, there is need to begin somewhere. The practice of Reuse, Recycle and Reduce should be continued. Years ago, Nimby became a catchword in the US. "Not in my backyard" reflected the very same sentiments that Filipinos, unwilling to accept garbage in their communities, are expressing today. The difference is that the US has been able to resolve most of its problems because it has the technology and communities are assured that they won't be subjected to degradation. Our local communities should be given the same assurance.

But in the meantime, we must practice the three Rs—Reuse, Recycle, Reduce, particularly the last. We have become a consumer society, but more than that, a throw-away society. This indicates that we should try to minimize our craving for material things, an attitude that adheres closely to environmentalism as well as to our spirituality. By not being extravagant, we won't have too many discards, and our streets need not be littered with rubbish as they are today. Our towns and cities reflect the kind of people we are. What are they revealing now?

Recycling and reusing are well known. It means giving your old things new life by creating new functions for them, and it means returning your used bottles, cans, newspapers to their manufacturers to be reused again… all for the purpose of reducing the amount of garbage to send to the dumpsites.

There is a very efficient recycling group that can be of help—the Metro Manila Linis Ganda headed by Narda Camacho. She has organized recycling centers with assistance of junk dealers all over the metropolis. She may be contacted at the Linis Ganda office, tel. 727-1219. Camacho, who has long been an advocate of zero waste management, says there is no need for landfills. Her solutions are the following and we quote:

Solutions

"1. Mandate the segregation of garbage in the kitchen in three containers—food and animal wastes; returnables to factories such as paper, plastics, bottles and cans; residuals such as household hazardous wastes like used sanitary napkins and diapers, cotton buds, wound dressings and bandages, personal items of sick people, toy and flashlight batteries, paint and thinner cans; pentel and ball pens; shoes and slippers; upholstery; mats; and unrecyclable packagings such as tetra pak and polystyrene packs.

"2. The government should collect the organic material and convert them into compost. People with space should be encouraged to do the composing in their own backyard.

"3. The returnables should be collected in green-colored trucks and sold to the paper, plastics, bottle and can factories. Another option is to encourage people to sell these items to existing junk shops to reduce the need for trucks to haul them.

"4. The residuals should be converted into usable products through the hydromex method, a model of which is in the Quezon City ground.

"5. Markets and slaughterhouses should be provided with digester tanks that convert organic waste into gas and compost.

"6. Hospital wastes should be collected through a systematic method because the hydromex machine is also suitable for hospital waste.

"7. After these are done, there should be no need for dumpsites, or less garbage need be thrown in them."

The hydromex system uses manually operated vats with grinders into which certain substances like lemon juice are put in to eliminate unpleasant odors and sanitize the contents. The solid residue produced by the method can be used to produce hollow blocks, and the liquid, to produce paint.

Of the many LGUs Camacho has proposed the system to, only Quezon City has responded in the affirmative. The hydromex is now being constructed there. Camacho foresees that by March, the city will have been rid of practically all of the unsightly garbage in its streets. It may inspire others to follow suit.

How do you fit two giants in one page?

Most of us have trouble fitting
into our pants,
what more bringing two media
giants into one site?
But with Inq7.net, the country's most
awarded network and the
nation's leading newspaper come
together to create the
biggest online source of Philippine
news and information.
Get up-to-the-minute news
updates, live streaming
video/audio of ongoing
news events plus the
insights and integrity you've
come to expect from
GMA and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
Sounds amazing?
Log on to **www.inq7.net.**

INQ7.net
your home, your newwws.

An unhappy client of health-care insurance

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

SAD to say that many health-care plan holders do not know where to seek redress for their grievances. They cannot go to the Insurance Commission which, surprisingly, has no say in the supervision of medical care business.

Go to Securities and Exchange Commission. We did that once and got no assistance for the complaint of a reader we forwarded to SEC.

Here's a complaint from a disgusted holder of a managed care plan. R.T. Uy of Bacaca, Davao City wrote: "My wife is a cardholder who, unfortunately, was misdiagnosed by an accredited doctor. She complained of an unusual headache for which the doctor merely gave her pain relievers. The pain persisted so we consulted a non-accredited doctor who promptly advised my wife that she needed blood transfusion. She had internal bleeding and the previous doctor diagnosed headache!

"I filed for reimbursement of expenses but was denied for the reason that the disease was preexisting."

Speaking of doctors, they're not saints. Here's a complaint sent to us by beth71@msn.com: "My husband went to the hospital for a renal calculi. He wanted to have lithotripsy since the condition was not invasive. But his attending doctor convinced him to have surgery instead and said it would cost almost the same as lithotripsy. The doctor gave him a breakdown of charges. So my husband underwent surgery with the knowledge that the company would shoulder the cost.

"A month later, however, my husband was informed by his company that he had to pay 20 percent of the total cost. He had obviously exceeded his hospitalization allowance. On checking the bill, he found out to his dismay that the anesthesiologist had charged more than surgery itself. The company had already settled the bill and the 20 percent had to be deducted from his paycheck."

No therapeutic claims

THE BUREAU of Food and Drug forwarded to us the following advisories served to two companies that were advertising therapeutic claims of products registered as food supplements.

According to Dr. William D. Torres, BFAD director, the Consumer Act of the Philippines prohibits advertisement of therapeutic claims that are not approved by the health department. He added that the Consumer Act prohibits "advertisement of food, drug, cosmetic, device or hazardous substance in a manner that is false, misleading, deceptive, or is likely to create erroneous impression regarding its character, value, quality, composition, merit or safety."

One of the products, Charantia Ampalayo Health Drink, was advertised as "the only medicinal plant whose anti-diabetic potency has been scientifically validated by the Department of Health."

According to Dr. Kenneth Hartigan Go, BFAD deputy director, the product is registered with BFAD as a food supplement. As such, it cannot make therapeutic claim. He added that there is no scientific evidence to prove the claim.

Distributors of Herbalite and other lose-gain weight products were also ordered to stop advertising and promoting therapeutic claims of said products registered as food supplements.

BFAD director Dr. William Torres advised the distributors that products registered as food supplements cannot be promoted for curative and medicinal effects.

What about herbal candies?

We're just wondering—and asking—how BFAD plans to regulate candy bars, cookies, fruit drinks, and soups that lay claim to a gamut of health and therapeutic effects?

Balikbayan relatives have been plugging us, or teasing us perhaps, with American herbal snacks that are supposed to promote relaxation, improve our memory, promote wellness and support emotional and mental balance.

There's herbal Kava Kava corn chips, Ginkgo Biloba rings, Think Protein candy bag, Ginseng Ginger Ale, Vanilla Almond Crisp with ginkgo biloba and many more. Expect local food manufacturers to produce their own version.

While we are still in the process of changing our e-mail address. Send consumer complaints and comments to lifestyle@ inquirer.com.ph

ESSENSES/GIRL COSMETICS

Who's that girl?

THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE will be asking when Essenses, the newest concept for a total wellness and healthy lifestyle store, opens its doors on Jan. 16, 2001, on the ground floor of the new wing of Rustan's Makati.

Girl is a line of fun, funky color cosmetics for trendy teens and twentysomethings, which has been a hit from the club scene to the high fashion boutiques and has caught the attention of beauty editors and stylists alike.

Since it was founded in 1997 by a young man, Shawn Haynes, whose first product, a lipstick called Lover Lips, was inspired by his girlfriend, Girl Cosmetic has attracted an electric following of well-known faces like Britney Spears, Courtney Cox Arquette, Drew Barrymore, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Courtney Love, Rose McGowan, Michael Stipe, Steven Tyler, and inevitably Marilyn Manson.

By the way, the girlfriend became his wife.

Shawn Haynes, a native Californian with an entrepreneurial bent, followed Lover Lips with an extremely hot line of glam glitter products, from glitter eye pencil and highlighter to glitter lip gloss and décolletage. He named the line Velvet Goldmine, after the movie of the same title – which happens to have been written and directed by Shawn's brother, the renegade filmmaker Todd Haynes.

The brand may have been refocused but the Girl Power remains unchanged. "The premise is: no matter how old she gets, inside every woman is a girl," says Shawn Haynes. "Cosmetics are becoming so clinical and scientific that the glamour elements are fading. Between skin-clearing foundations and self-renewing lipsticks, function has overtaken fantasy. Girl is determined to bring it back."

Girl's Spring 2001 Collection combines cutting-edge formulation with the new emphasis on femininity in fashion.

To complement the beautiful, bias-cut pieces and flowing gowns, Girl has created the softer, more feminine new trends line with artistry appeal. It is introducing matte eye shadows (Velvet Eye Shadow) in beautiful base colors; softer shades in gloss (Slip Gloss and Hi-Fi Lipstick) and lipsticks (Deevine Lipstick) that are perfect for every age and skin type; mascara and the latest in face wear.

While setting trends, Girl is also sticking to its wild roots by adding its signature edgy colors such as rich golds, reds and blues, sparkling shimmer powder and lipsticks like no one has ever seen before.

Girl will be available, together with natural health-oriented and quality products for a young market from the world's most reliable companies, among them Soular Therapy System, Nuxe Skincare (Paris), Sprayology, Swissological Baby Care, Perfect 10 (nail care), Baby Spa, Jean Claude Biguine and the makeup creators Diego Dalla Palma and Sege Louis Alvarez.

From homeopathy and aromatherapy to perfumes and herbal teas, the new Essenses at Rustan's Makati will provide a wholistic approach to a healthy lifestyle that everyone deserves.

Girl's products were soon carried in about 10 doors, the most important being Bloomingdale's in its new Off Broadway flagship, and Nordstrom Last Year 2000, Haynes inked a deal with Sephora Japan, house of Fraiser (a U.K. based retail chain), Rustan's and The Bay chain owned and operated by Toronto-based The Hudson Bay, Canada's largest retailer.

Now, if you ask Shawn Haynes how things are going, he'll tell you he has hit a milestone: He can now afford to hire his father.

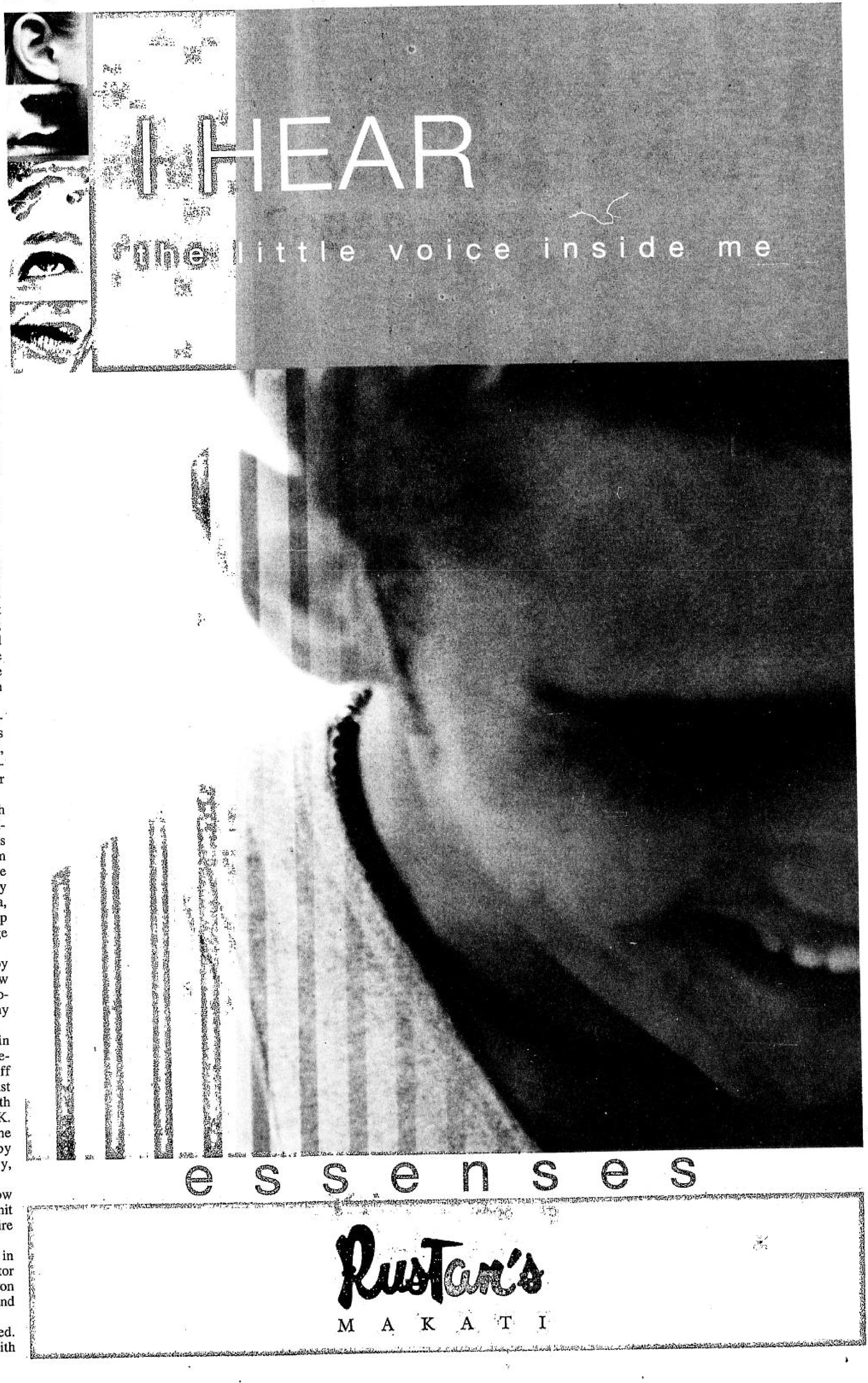
The elder Haynes, who has worked in the cosmetics industry as a distributor and sales rep for the past 30 years, is on board to coalesce the brand's image and help it grow.

The packaging has been redesigned. The new cases are brushed silver with accents of purple. The chubby compacts feature hidden compartments with a mirror and applicator neatly stowed within – perfect for transporting in the new season's miniature clutches and malice bags. The new boxes are deep purple with a streak of silver holographic paper for sparkle. Even the logo has adopted a Fifties-style script that appears to press slightly forward. "Timeless, like the lettering on an old Cadillac," says Shawn Haynes.

The new Girl web site now focuses on e-commerce and new, interactive content, including step-by-step makeup application instruction to create certain looks. The packaging and Web site relaunching, which happened late last year, was prompted by the confusion created by Velvet Goldmine: it was successful in sales but consumers did not associate it with Girl Cosmetics.

SHAWN Haynes

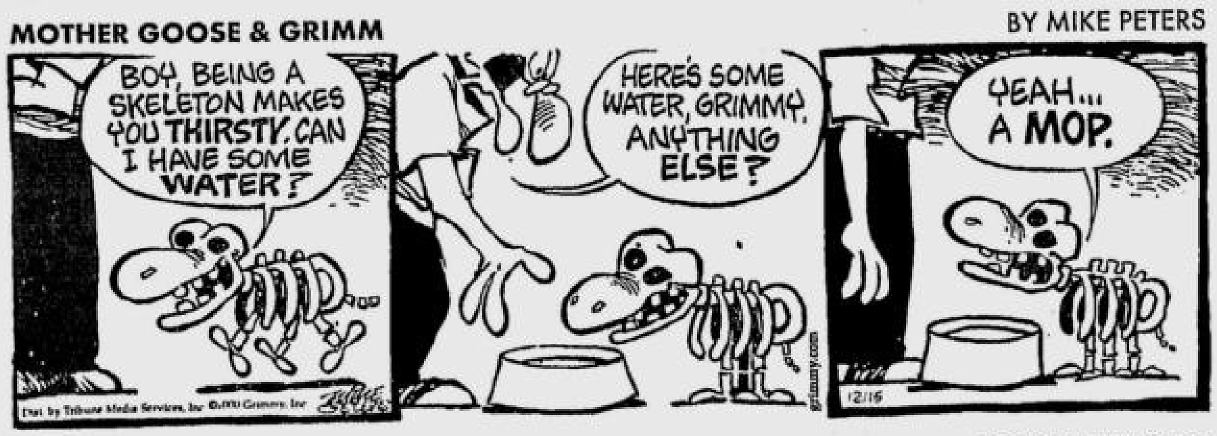
Girl's Spring 2001 Collection combines cutting-edge formulation with the new emphasis on femininity in fashion



ComicRelief

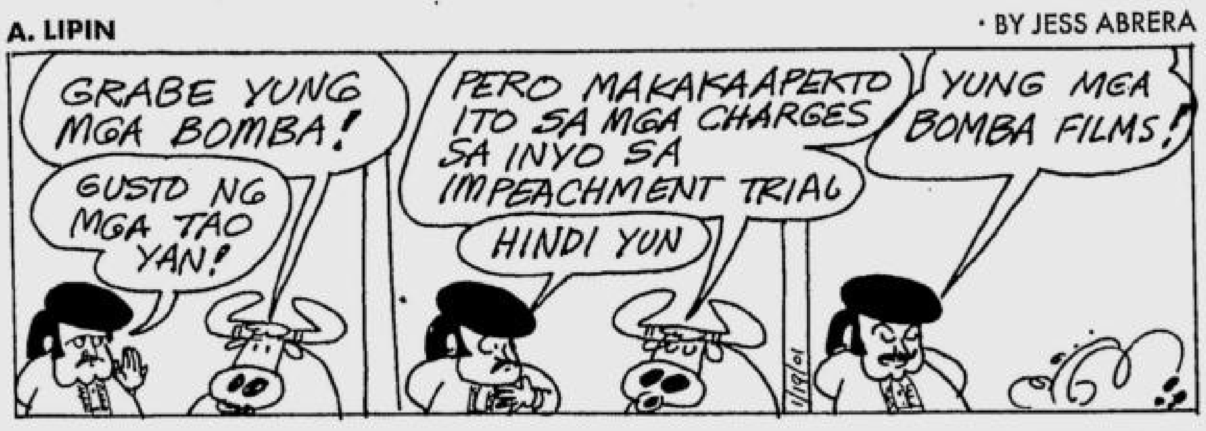
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


BOY, BEING A SKELETON MAKES YOU THIRSTY. CAN I HAVE SOME WATER?
HERE'S SOME WATER, GRIMMY. ANYTHING ELSE?
YEAH... A MOP.
grimmy.com
12/16

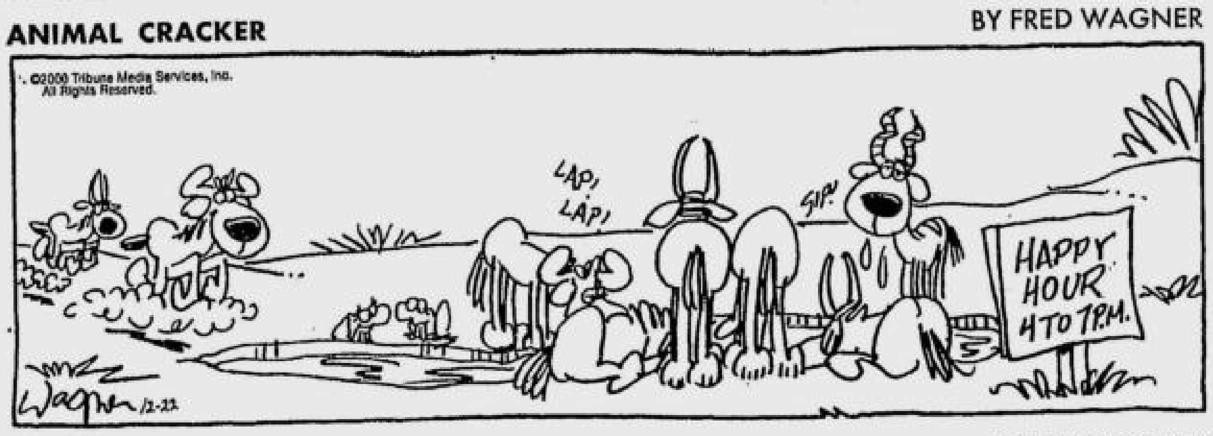
A. LIPIN

· BY JESS ABRERA


GRABE YUNG MGA BOMBA!
GUSTO NG MGA TAO YAN!
PERO MAKAKAAPEKTO ITO SA MGA CHARGES SA INYO SA IMPEACHMENT TRIAL
HINDI YUN
YUNG MGA BOMBA FILMS!
1/19/01

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER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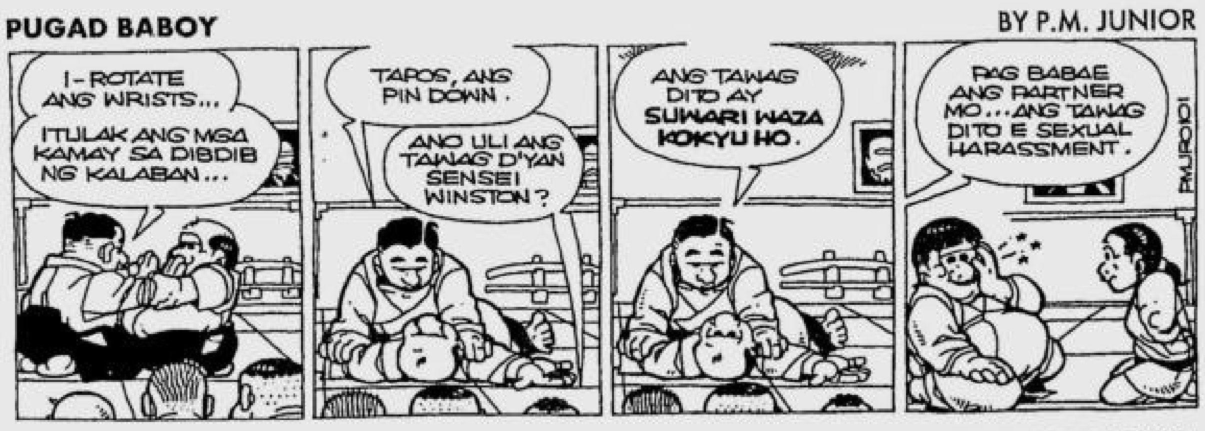
LAP! LAP!
SIP!
HAPPY HOUR 4 TO 7 P.M.
Wagner 12-22

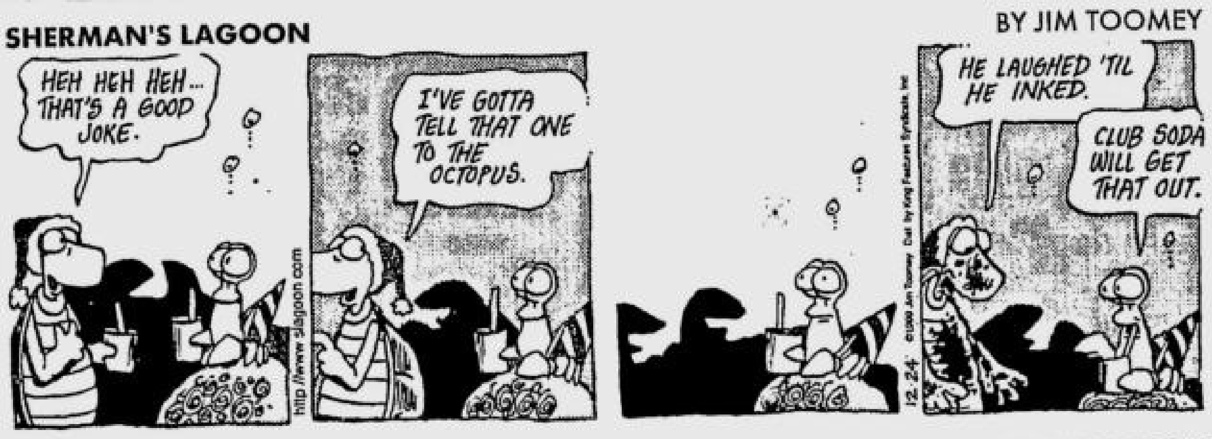
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


I-ROTATE ANG WRISTS...
ITULAK ANG MGA KAMAY SA DIBDIB NG KALABAN...
TAPOS, ANG PIN DOWN.
ANO ULI ANG TAWAG D'YAN SENSEI WINSTON?
ANG TAWAG DITO AY SUWARI WAZA KOKYU HO.
PAG BABAE ANG PARTNER MO... ANG TAWAG DITO E SEXUAL HARASSMENT.
PMJR01

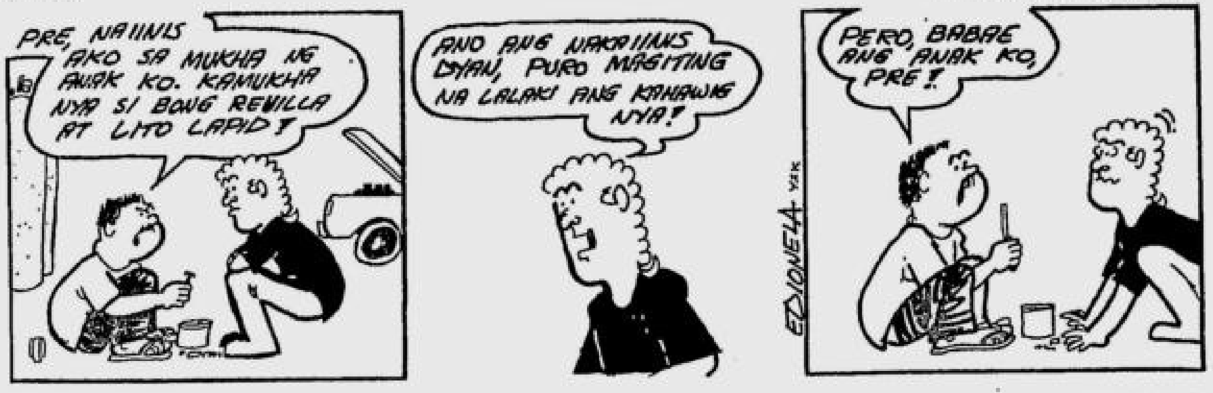
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HEH HEH HEH... THAT'S A GOOD JOKE.
I'VE GOTTA TELL THAT ONE TO THE OCTOPUS.
HE LAUGHED 'TIL HE INKED.
CLUB SODA WILL GET THAT OUT.
http://www.slagoon.com
12-24

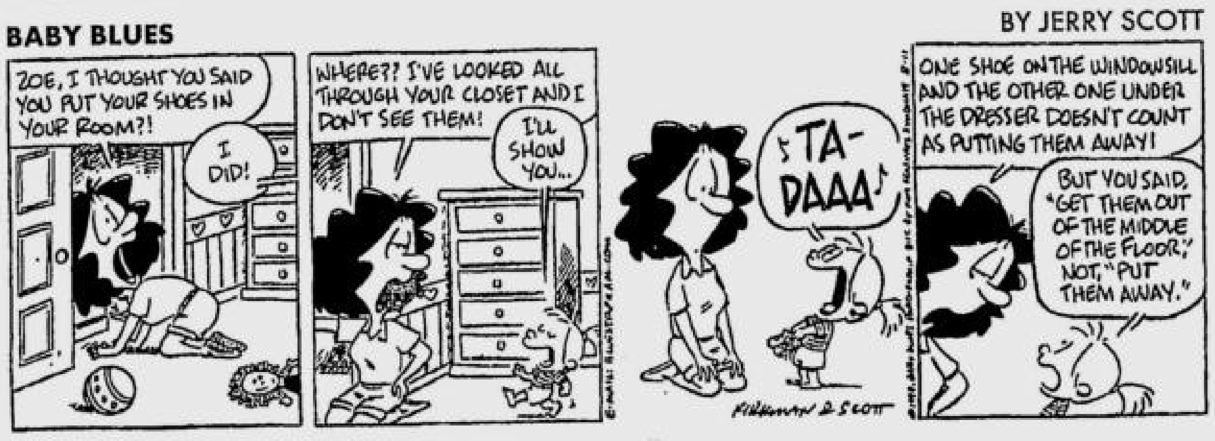
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PRE, NAIINIS AKO SA MUKHA NG ANAK KO. KAMUKHA NYA SI BONG REVILLA AT LITO LAPID!
ANO ANG NAKAIINIS DYAN, PURO MAGITING NA LALAKI ANG KAHAWIG NYA!
PERO, BABAE ANG ANAK KO, PRE!
EDIONELA

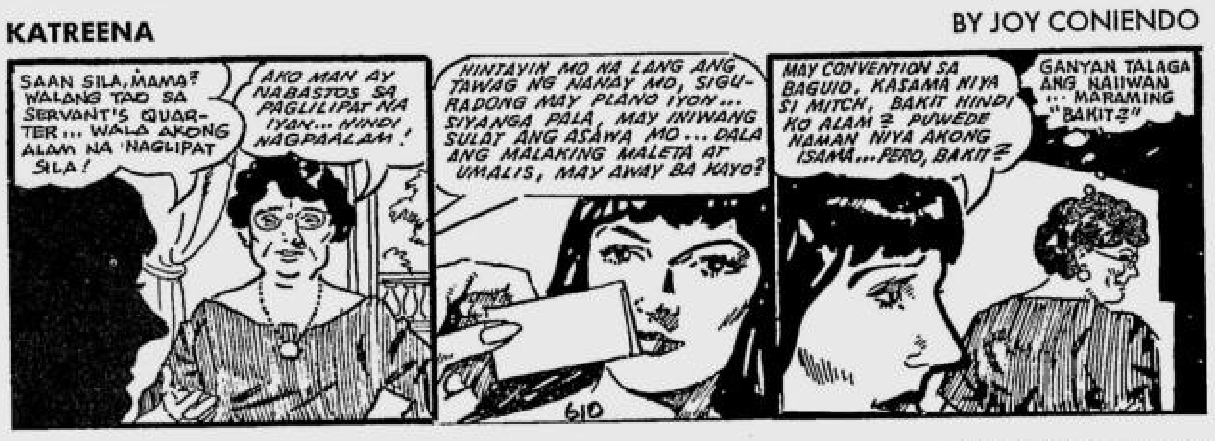
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE, I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU PUT YOUR SHOES IN YOUR ROOM?!
I DID!
WHERE?? I'VE LOOKED ALL THROUGH YOUR CLOSET AND I DON'T SEE THEM!
I'LL SHOW YOU...
TA-DAAA
ONE SHOE ON THE WINDOWSILL AND THE OTHER ONE UNDER THE DRESSER DOESN'T COUNT AS PUTTING THEM AWAY!
BUT YOU SAID, "GET THEM OUT OF THE MIDDLE OF THE FLOOR," NOT, "PUT THEM AWAY."
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


SAAN SILA, MAMA? WALANG TAO SA SERVANT'S QUARTER... WALA AKONG ALAM NA NAGLIPAT SILA!
AKO MAN AY NABASTOS SA PAGLILIPAT NA IYAN... HINDI NAGPAALAM!
HINTAYIN MO NA LANG ANG TAWAG NG NANAY MO, SIGURADONG MAY PLANO IYON... SIYANGA PALA, MAY INIWANG SULAT ANG ASAWA MO... DALA ANG MALAKING MALETA AT UMALIS, MAY AWAY BA KAYO?
MAY CONVENTION SA BAGUIO, KASAMA NIYA SI MITCH, BAKIT HINDI KO ALAM? PUWEDE NAMAN NIYA AKONG ISAMA... PERO, BAKIT?
GANYAN TALAGA ANG NAIIWAN ... MARAMING "BAKIT?"
610

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dolly Parton, Robert Palmer, Shelley Fabares, Desi Arnaz Jr., Michael Crawford

Happy Birthday: Get organized or you may find yourself running around in circles. You will have too much energy to burn and not enough discipline to accomplish much if you aren't careful. Direct yourself wisely if you want this to be a fruitful year. Romance, compassion and accomplishment can be yours if you direct your energy in a positive and productive manner. Your numbers: 2, 8, 11, 26, 34, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't speed. The highway is not a racetrack. You should join your lover in physical activities. Too much idle time and talk will lead to disagreements.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make professional changes, or consider starting your own small business. You will have no problems convincing others of your abilities. Go after your goals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need a change and now is the time for self-improvement. Mental stimulation will be important. Try to spend time with those who provide you with intellectual conversation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Try to make residential moves or changes that will benefit the whole family. Additional responsibilities may be difficult to handle if you try to take them on by yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Offer your home for group meetings or just friendly get-togethers. New friendships can lead to business partnerships and contacts. Listen to what others have to say.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can get a lot done, but don't make promises that are impossible to keep. Children may be counting on you more than you think. Don't give cash to unworthy causes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Greater self-awareness will develop through communication with your peers. You can change your lifestyle if you want. Take advantage of the opportunities offered.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make the most of your time. Plan your activities wisely. Don't take on trivial work that should be delegated to someone with fewer qualifications.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be inclined to get involved in an unwise financial investment or gambling. Talk to someone you trust before deciding to take any chances.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let relatives and friends stand in the way of your intentions. You can learn a great deal from foreigners if you decide to do some traveling.

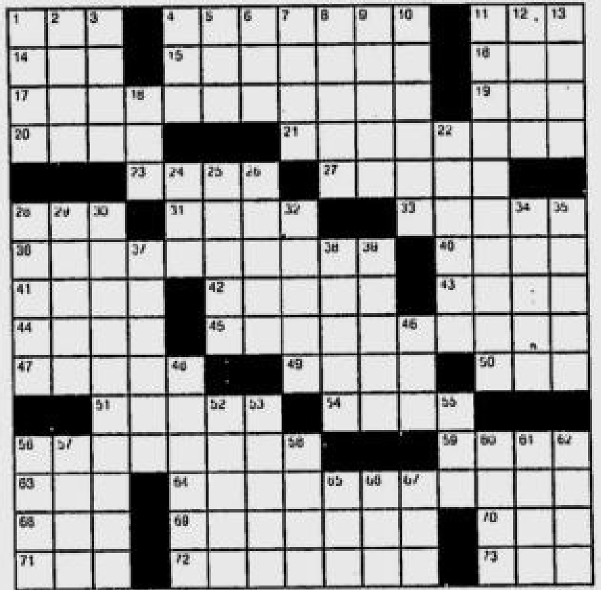
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Self-awareness will be necessary. Reevaluate your motives. Social activity will lead to romantic opportunities. Change whatever is necessary to make yourself happy. You must learn to love yourself before you love someone else.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be honest and direct today. Misunderstandings will cause problems with partners if you haven't explained your intentions precisely.

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, sociable and charming. You have great ideas, and your creativity will not be overlooked. You like the limelight and will use any opportunity to present your ideas.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

12/6/00

ACROSS

1 Circle segment
4 Electra's brother
11 The whole of
14 Bruce or Spike
15 French auto maker
16 Shoe width
17 Start of advice from Joan Rivers
19 Brit. flyboys
20 Visualized
21 Somewhat hard?
23 Letters before and after noon
27 Phoenician city
28 Start of summer?
31 Nabisco cookie
33 Expunge
36 Part 2 of advice
40 Man with regrets
41 Pick players
42 Detection device
43 Klemperer or Preminger
44 Singing voice
45 Part 3 of advice
47 Maple product
49 Farm laborer
50 Miler Sebastian
51 Fencing swords
54 Store away
56 "Goblin Market" poet
59 Sorry 'bout that
63 Want __
64 End of advice
68 Compete
69 Most weird
70 "Born in the __"
71 Ultimate act
72 Garden shade, perhaps
73 Lacking

DOWN

1 How sad!
2 Lacoste or Levesque
3 Yield
4 Mine find
5 Stipe's group
6 Compass pt.
7 Hull and Jaffe
8 Ducts
9 Varnish ingredient
10 Long, proud step
11 Of plane navigation
12 Page
13 Remaining or departed
18 Cellular letters
22 Grief
24 Sun. follower
25 Matter-of-fact
26 I want to also
28 Aluminum silicates
29 Boot of Europe
30 Made to look used
32 Confess
34 Altercation
35 Worn away unevenly
37 Basins of holy water
38 Kin of cods
39 Equivocator's phrase
46 Lennon's Yoko
48 Comic Herman
52 Lucy's landlady
53 Tempest
55 Asian frying pan
56 Enthusiastic opinion
57 Frigg's husband
58 Fake, briefly
60 Burden of proof
61 Fancy schmancy
62 Win over
65 Beatles song, "__ Blues"
66 Carbo: suff.
67 Shoshone

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	C	A	R		P	L	E	A	S		E	Z	R	A
N	O	U	N		E	A	R	T	H		R	U	I	N
A	N	N	A	B	E	L	L	E	E		M	I	N	T
F	A	T		I	R	A	E		B	R	I	D	G	E
U	N	S	C	R	E	W		M	A	I	N	E		
			A	D	D		C	O	N	C	E	R	T	O
B	A	S	I	S		C	A	R	G	O		Z	O	O
A	R	A	N		G	O	W	N	S		G	E	T	Z
R	E	N		D	I	V	E	S		G	E	E	S	E
B	A	D	G	E	R	E	D		D	Y	E			
		R	E	L	A	Y		S	O	P	R	A	N	O
S	H	A	R	I	F		A	L	L	S		P	O	D
C	O	D	A		F	A	M	I	L	Y	T	R	E	E
U	S	E	R		E	R	I	C	A		A	I	N	T
D	E	E	D		S	E	D	E	R		O	L	D	S

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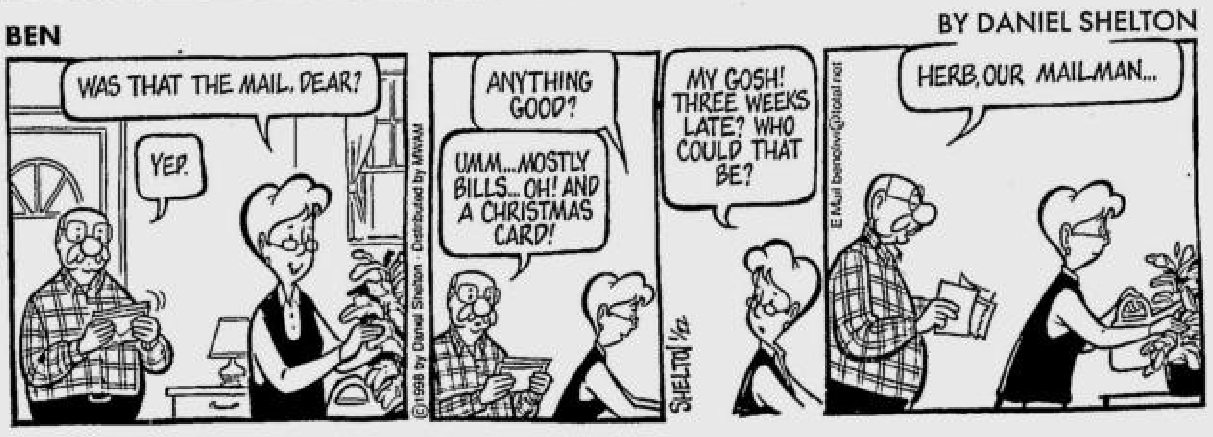
12/6/00

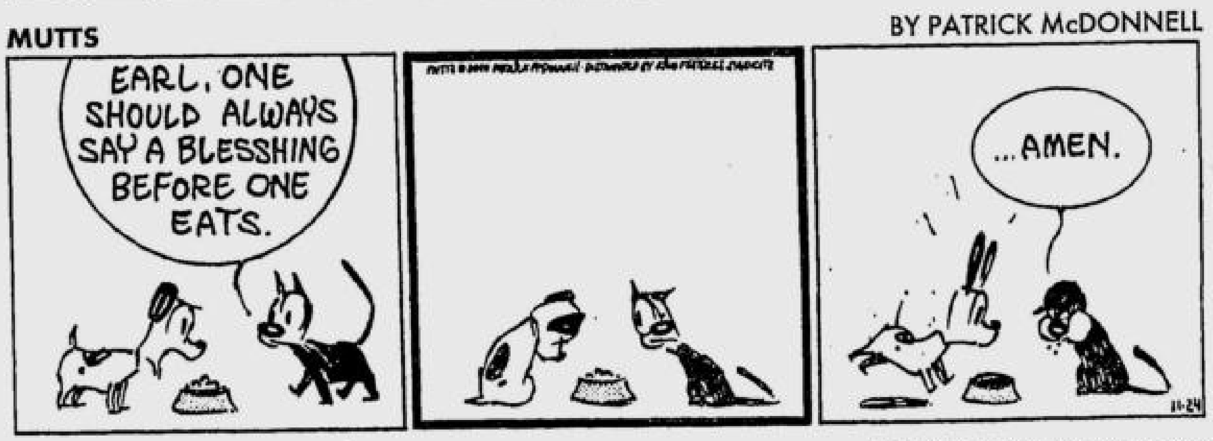
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WAS THAT THE MAIL, DEAR?
YEP.
ANYTHING GOOD?
UMM... MOSTLY BILLS... OH! AND A CHRISTMAS CARD!
MY GOSH! THREE WEEKS LATE? WHO COULD THAT BE?
HERB, OUR MAILMAN...
© 1998 by Daniel Shelton · Distributed by MWAM
SHELTON

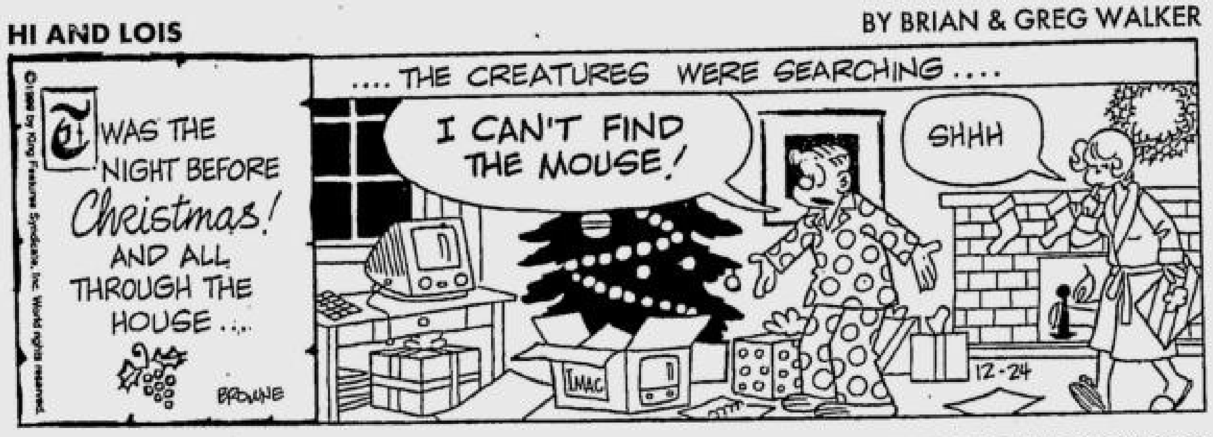
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL, ONE SHOULD ALWAYS SAY A BLESSHING BEFORE ONE EATS.
...AMEN.
11-24

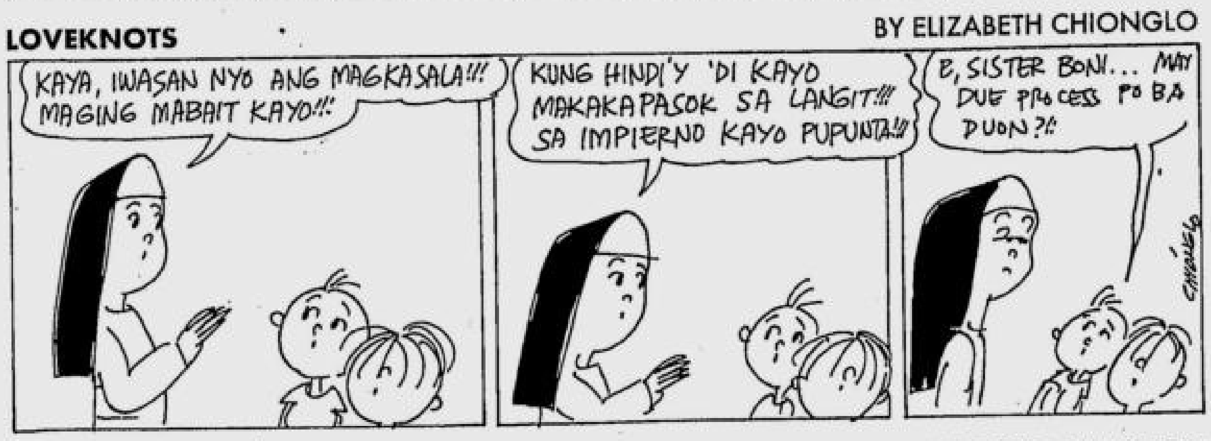
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE Christmas! AND ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE...
.... THE CREATURES WERE SEARCHING ....
I CAN'T FIND THE MOUSE!
SHHH
IMAC
12-24
BROWNE

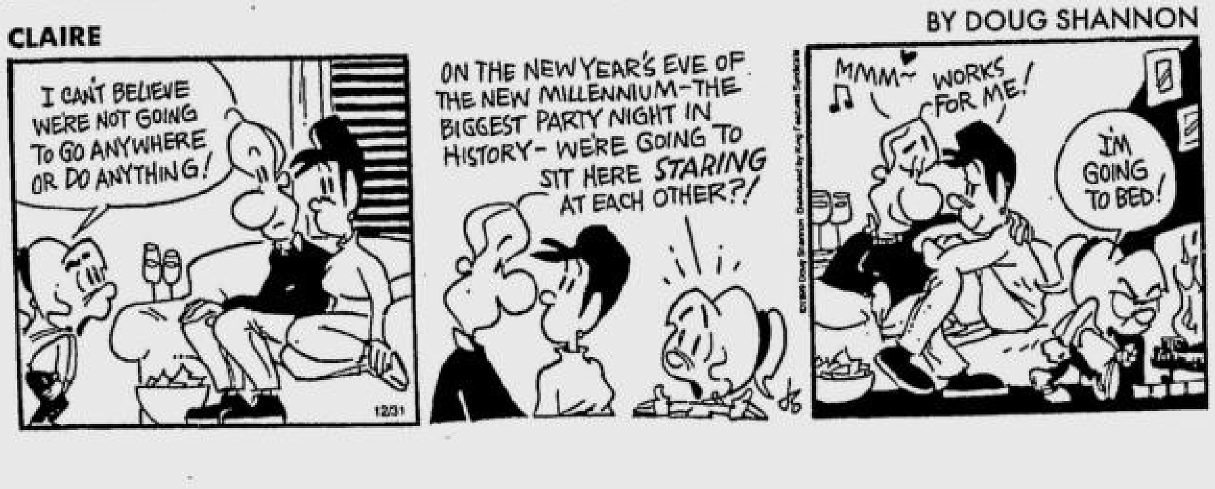
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

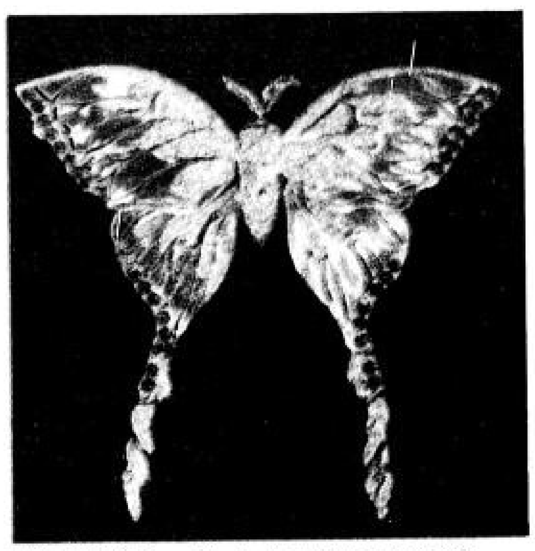

KAYA, IWASAN NYO ANG MAGKASALA!!! MAGING MABAIT KAYO!!!
KUNG HINDI'Y 'DI KAYO MAKAKAPASOK SA LANGIT!!! SA IMPIERNO KAYO PUPUNTA!!!
E, SISTER BONI... MAY DUE PROCESS PO BA DUON?!
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE

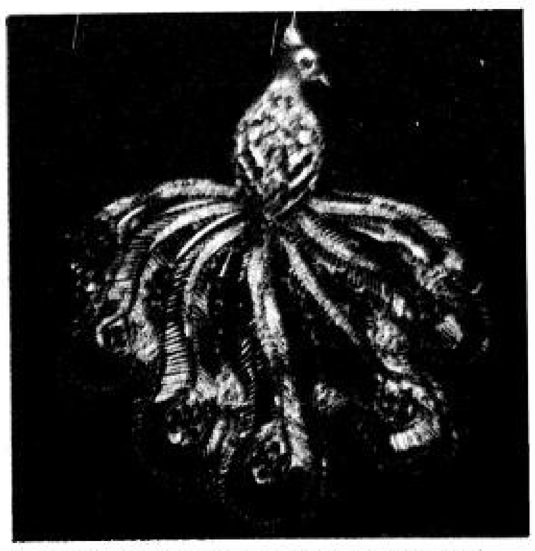
BY DOUG SHANNON


I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE NOT GOING TO GO ANYWHERE OR DO ANYTHING!
ON THE NEW YEAR'S EVE OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM—THE BIGGEST PARTY NIGHT IN HISTORY—WE'RE GOING TO SIT HERE STARING AT EACH OTHER?!
MMM~
WORKS FOR ME!
I'M GOING TO BED!
12/31

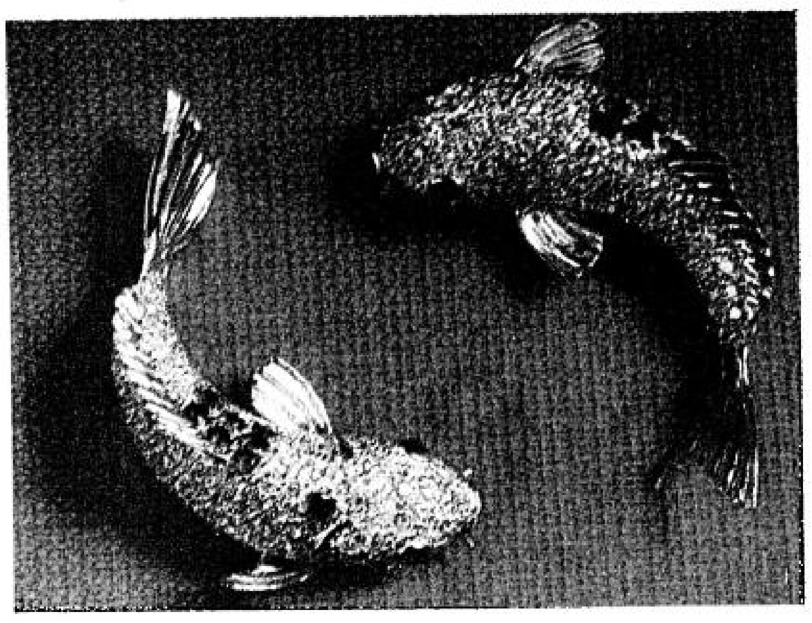
A young jeweler's broodings on brooches



THE WINGS on this butterfly brooch gently flutter as its wearer moves. It is set in 18K white and yellow gold with diamond and rubies.



AN INTRICATE peacock brooch set in 18K white and yellow gold with diamonds and blue sapphires



CARP brooches set in 18K white and yellow gold with diamonds, rubies and blue sapphires

BROOCHES are jewelry with responsibility, says Caroline Childers in her book "Haute Jewelry."

Brooches originally held Roman togas in place, or served as talismans and amulets for Colombian warriors to ward off hostile elements. Toward the 20th century, the brooch would come into its own as a jewelry piece in its own right, favored by European crowned heads and legendary jewelers like Tiffany and Chaumet.

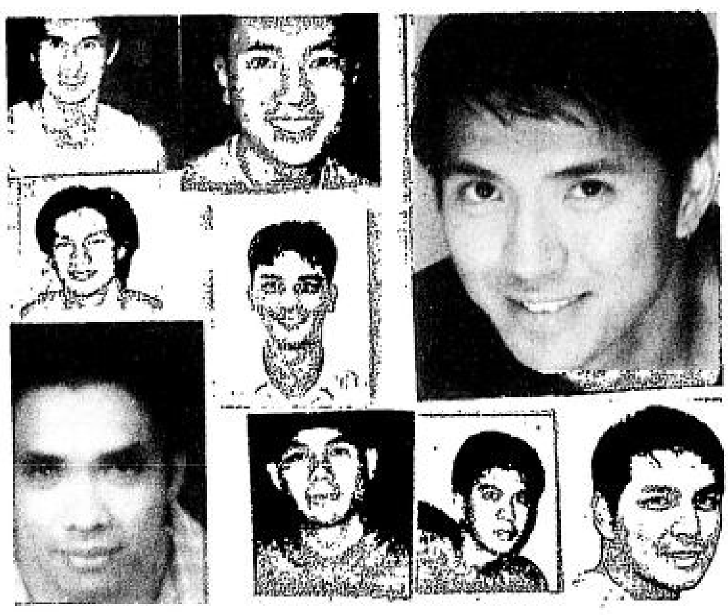
Although in the midst of preparations for the prestigious New York jewelry show in August, young gemologist and designer Raffy Florencio, is reinterpreting the favorite themes of the classic masters of the brooch: florals given shape as roses and orchids, birds taking flight as parrots, owls and cockatoos; insects transformed as lissome butterflies and dragonflies; fishes in saltwater; and tropical endangered species.

Brooches are usually the last piece bought to complete a collection. But Florencio, the young proprietor of Rafael Jewellery at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, observes: "In the past few years, more and more Filipinos have been appreciating the wearing of brooches following the practice of women in the US and Europe. This shows there is a growing sophistication locally."

As shown in these photos, his designs are intended to brooch the subject of his classic influences and personal advocacies, or as often happens, the singular preferences of his clients. His brooches are also one of a kind because every wearer is unique.

Bargain stores rise in Alabang

HANDS down, the shops in Greenhills are the fashion destination for bargain hunters and for those who are always on the lookout for the latest in style. Now people from the South-Alabang, Parañaque, Las Piñas and surrounding areas don't have to join the maddening crowd in Greenhills to grab the trendiest items in town. The same concept that has made Greenhills successful is now at Esteem Fashion Square at the upper ground floor, new wing of Alabang Town Center. With 20 stores that showcase a variety of fashion items, Esteem Fashion Square promises one-stop shopping convenience that is affordable.



SINULOG FEATURES TOP MALE MODELS
Axe presents Manila's top male models for Sinulog's Street Carnival, featuring the fashion collections of Protacio, Jun Escario, Jojo Romoff and En Sepia, on Jan. 20, 10 p.m., at The Village, Cebu Civic and Trade Center. Models include Mon Tioseco, TJ Manotoc, Arvin Mendoza, Gary Dolatas, Gerard Lauron, Edward Bantegui, Sid Nueno, Alvin de Gamo and Richard Nazareth.

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Palmolive Naturals Shower Cream

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Get a free specially designed robe!
Bring a Palmolive Naturals Shower Cream Box, avail of Slimmers World's luxurious Milk Bath and we will give a specially designed robe for the first five (5) customers at each Slimmers World branch.

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Promo Period:
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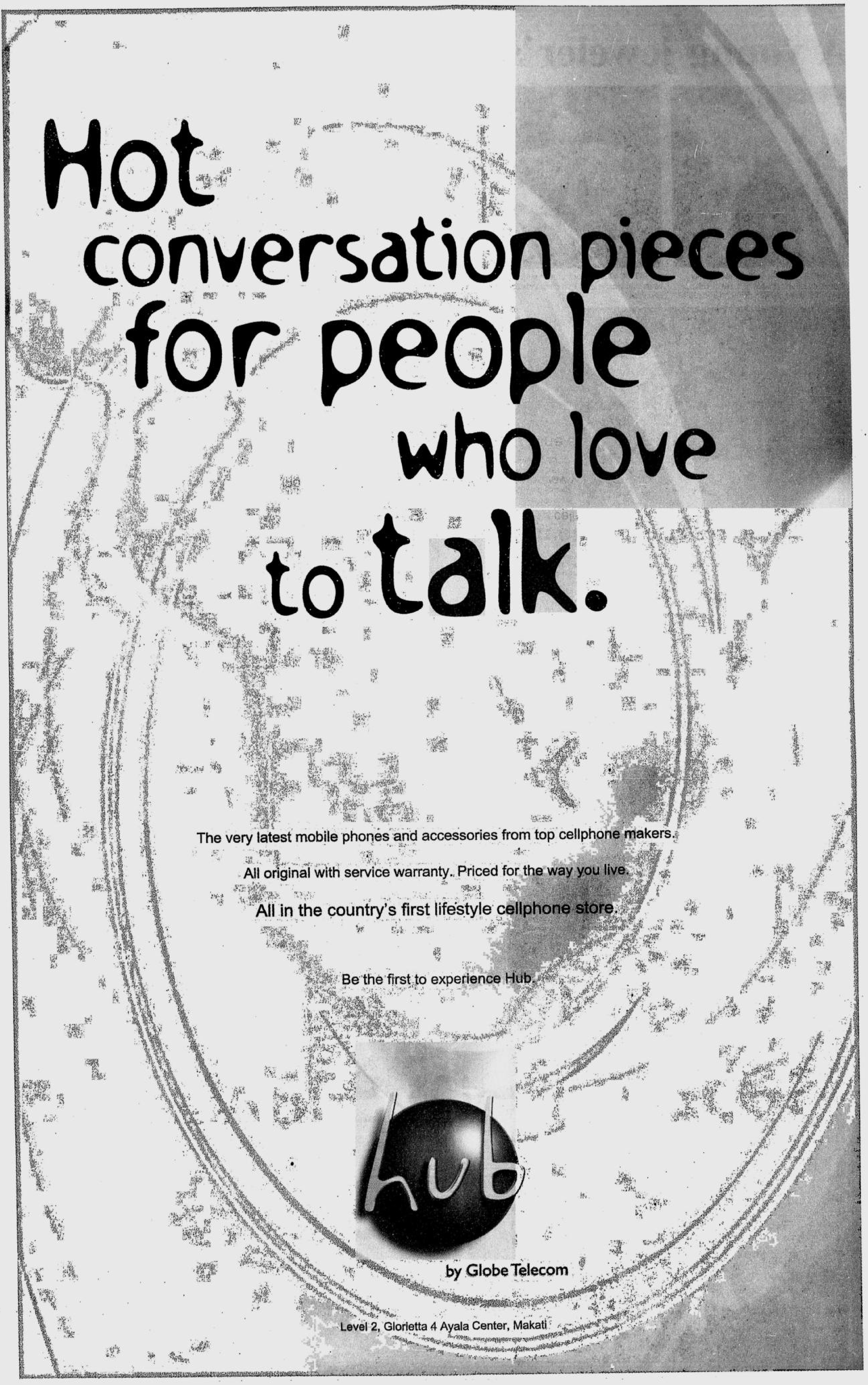
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It will be a long night

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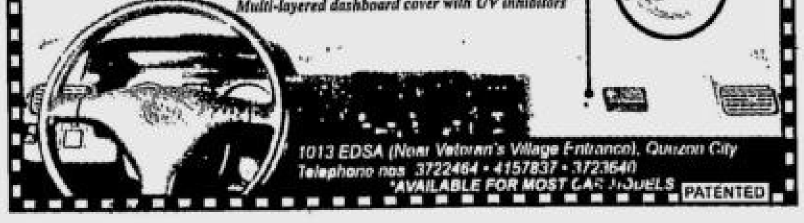

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WUSHU
An exhibition of Wushu martial arts to be held at the Little Chinatown.
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SM North Edsa [illegible]
CHINESE LION DRAGON DANCE
[illegible]
[illegible]

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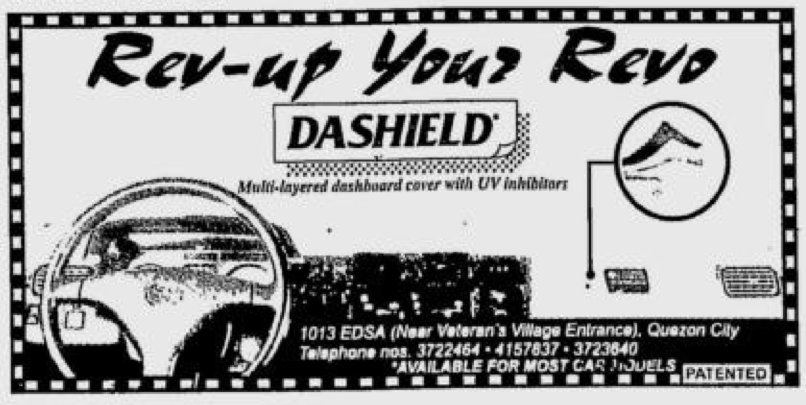

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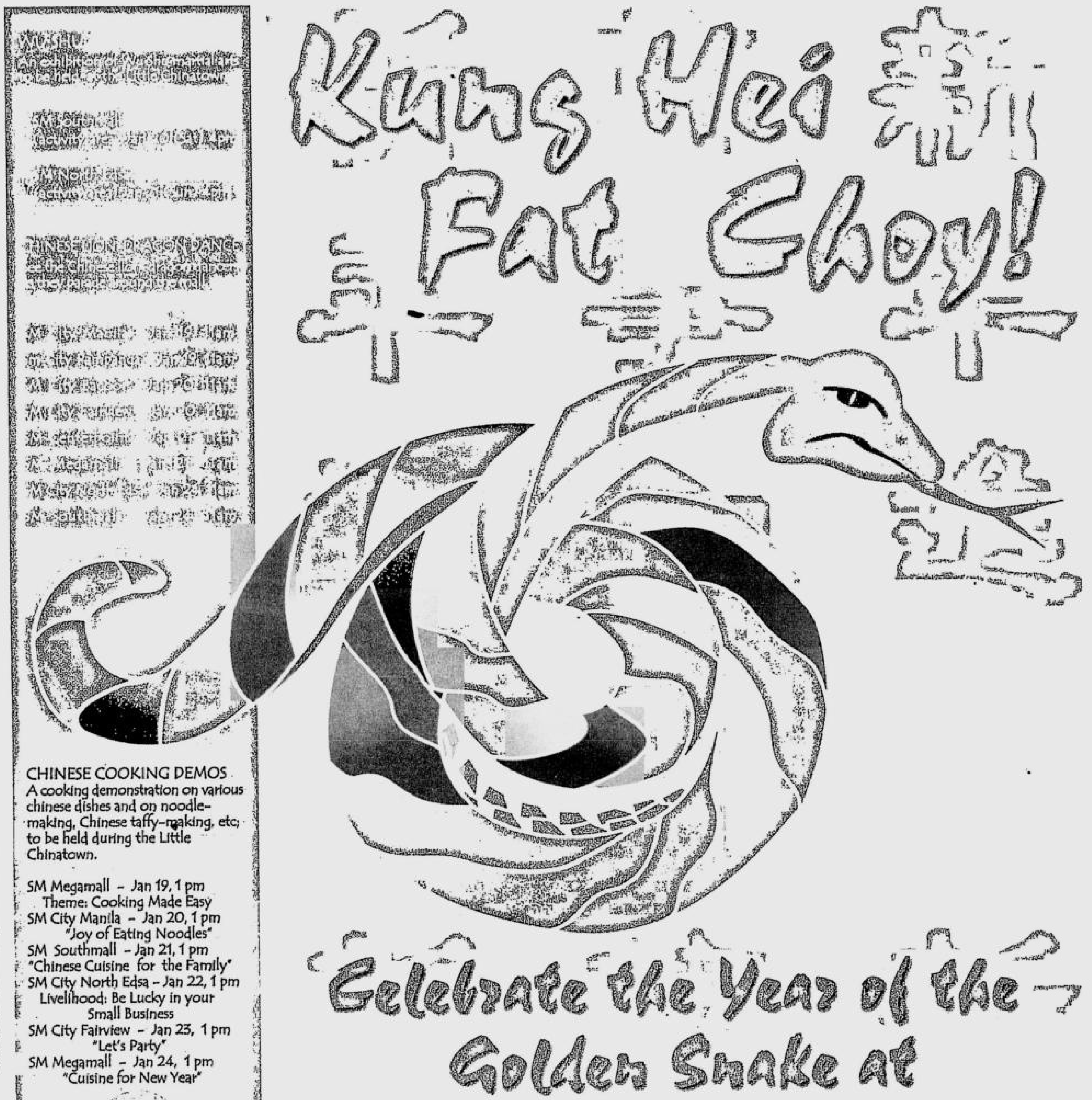
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PRU LIFE UK Cham

Man from the PRU

Steve S. Sy
China Jade

Special Awards

Branch Manager of the Year

Henry C. Gocuan
Blue Pearl

Unit Manager of the Year

Grace C. Parreñas
Garnet

Agent and Rookie of the Year

Steve S. Sy
China Jade

PRU LIFE UK Branch of the Year

Cebu Blue Pearl

"Four years in a row!"

Top Producers

Steve S. Sy
China Jade

Katherine L. Yap*
Blue Pearl

Adora L. Tudias
Garnet

Jeff U. Damayo
Blue Pearl

Nellie Yeo King*
China Jade

Debbie O. Borromeo
Blue Pearl

Henson Dave K. Tan*
China Jade

Edwin C. Gocuan*
Blue Pearl

Irene G. Yu
Blue Pearl

Record Breakers

Performance Consistency

Michael P. Ortega*
Diamond

Highest Sum Assured in Dollars

Tony R. Francisco
Ruby

Highest Single Premium in Dollars

Tony R. Francisco
Ruby

Highest Single Premium in Pesos

Jeff U. Damayo
Blue Pearl

Highest API (Producer Level)

Jeff U. Damayo
Blue Pearl

Highest API (Agent Level)

Jeff U. Damayo
Blue Pearl

Highest AP (Unit Level)

Jaime M. Barba
Blue Pearl

International Quality Award (IQA)

Pedro O. Lim*
China Jade

Katherine L. Yap*
Blue Pearl

Cristina L. Go*
China Jade

Henson Dave K. Tan*
China Jade

Imelda "Ime" Y. Lu
Ruby

Manfred R. Marpa
White Opal

International Convention Winners

Producer Level

Steve S. Sy
China Jade

Debbie O. Borromeo
Blue Pearl

Adora L. Tudias
Garnet

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Antonette "Babie" Mahinay
Blue Pearl

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Maria Cherrie
Blue Pearl

Paul L. Basleng
Garnet

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Michael Y. Chiang
China Jade

Tony R. Francisco
Ruby

Ma. Theresa B. Gallego, CPA
Blue Pearl

Arnel Amor R. Arriola*
Diamond

Juliet A. Kintanar
Blue Pearl

Severiano C. Co
Blue Pearl

Ma. Lourdes P. Yap
Blue Pearl

Belen Lourdes E. Aritao
Ruby

Artemio C. W
Blue Pe

Leonides V. Peña
Garnet

Darwin E. Andrey*, LUTCF
Tektite

Marina A. Carreon*
Diamond

Juan "Johnny" Loo
China Jade

Gilbert K. Chua
Blue Pearl

Cornelio C. Pahang
Blue Pearl

Elvira Del Castillo
Ruby

Nora N. Ngan-Oy
Garnet

Sonia U. Albano
Diamond

Arceli Chua Tan
Tektite

Mary Vic T. Aya
Blue Pearl

Ma. Christina M. Suarez
Blue Pearl

Carlito A. Tiu
China Jade

Jimmy Franklin C. Tan
Tiger's Eye

Rosario C. Ong
Amethyst

Loreta Chio
China Jade

Conchita C. Tan**
Amethyst

Wila A. Bahod
Garnet

Mark L. Licyayo*
Tektite

Sonia L. Tancinco
Blue Pearl

Lourdes L. Garcia
China Jade

Aurelio "Relli-
Jaspe

**Branch Mana
*Unit Mana

MESSAGES

When asked what I believe is the key reason Prudential is the top British life insurance company in Asia, I tell them: "the people and the relationships".

Throughout the region, we have a great team of people who are dedicated to ensuring Prudential leads the industry by providing the very best service for our customers.

I'm now delighted to congratulate some of the very best people in Prudential in Asia the top achievers of PRU LIFE of UK. Your dedication and hard work, and your understanding of our customer's needs, are exactly the qualities that help make Prudential renowned for service with a human and thoughtful touch.

"Always listening. Always understanding." is our credo and this style of doing business has characterised Prudential since the Company was established in 1848. Even today, in the era of the Internet and satellite communications, we are very clear that our customers are individuals, with individual needs.

Last year saw recognition of this, when one of PRU LIFE of UK's sister companies, Prudential Singapore, was voted "Asia's Life Insurance Company of the Year". Last year also saw Prudential continuing to grow throughout the region, with important developments including a joint venture in Mainland China and India and the expansion of our mutual funds business. We are committed to Asia, to our network of operations throughout the region, and especially to all of you here at PRU LIFE of UK.

Many congratulations once again! And my very best wishes for a very healthy, happy and prosperous 2001!

Mark. E. Tucker
Mark E. Tucker
Chief Executive
Prudential Corporation Asia

Welcome to the finish line my champions!

Once again, you didn't fail me - you promised and you delivered. I say that the year 2000 was not at all an easy hurdle to overc Nevertheless, by your sheer commitment and enthusiasm, you rod waves of crisis and persisted. Undoubtedly, the 61.4% growt Pru Life is a product of your hard work.

This year's projections are not any different from the year that just passed. But I am confi that no matter how extreme the challenges that face you, I can count on you to go out of y way, to give that extra mile and even go beyond what is expected of you. Your record-brea performance and productivity point to a more exciting and promising 2001.

Together with the Administration team, whose undying support is unparalleled, I take p in having you as my formidable team that shares and strives toward a common vision.

My heartfelt thanks and congratulations! Pru Life UK is proud of you!

Bobby G. Madrid
President & CEO
PRU LIFE UK

PRU LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION of U.K. 25th Floor Tower I, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue, M

pions of Year 2000

Special Awards Runners-Up

Branch Manager Level

Koa Hue Hun
China Jade

Rina Siacunco
Garnet

Unit Manager Level

Jaime M. Barba
Blue Pearl

Edwin C. Gocuan
Blue Pearl

Rookie of the Year

Adora L. Tudias
Garnet

Jeff U. Damayo
Blue Pearl

Agent of the Year

Adora L. Tudias
Garnet

Jeff U. Damayo
Blue Pearl

Triple A Awardees

Jaime M. Barba*
Blue Pearl

Edwin C. Gocuan*
Blue Pearl

Katherine L. Yap*
Blue Pearl

Cristina L. Go*
China Jade

Henson Dave K. Tan*
China Jade

Melchor Ong Uy*
China Jade

Michael P. Ortega*
Diamond

Lorna C. Liboon*
Diamond

Arnel Amor R. Arriola*
Diamond

Grace C. Parreñas*
Garnet

Nenette DS. Reyes*
Ruby

Elsa M. Sambalilo*
Ruby

Violy S. Ante*
Ruby

Darwin E. Andrey*, LUTCF
Tektite
Anniversary Drive Qualifier

Unit Level

Grace C. Parreñas
Garnet

Jaime M. Barba
Blue Pearl

Katherine L. Yap
Blue Pearl

Edwin C. Gocuan
Blue Pearl

Melchor Ong Uy
China Jade

Negette DS. Reyes
Ruby

Nellie Yeo King
China Jade

Henson Dave K. Tan
China Jade

Branch Level

Henry C. Gocuan
Blue Pearl

Koa Hue Hun
China Jade

Rina Siacunco
Garnet

Cheryl Lynn J. Martinez
Diamond

Myrna Galban
Ruby

Case Counters Club

Centennial Club

Leonides V. Peña
Garnet

Steve S. Sy
China Jade

Lourdes L. Garcia
China Jade

Adora L. Tudias
Garnet

Silver Club

Belen Lourdes E. Aritao
Ruby

Rebecca S. Camarista
White Opal

Bronze Club

Mark L. Licyayo*
Tektite

Antonette "Babie" Mahinay
Blue Pearl

Bronze Club

Arcell Chua Tan
Tektite

Arnel Amor R. Arriola*
Diamond

Debbie O. Borromeo
Blue Pearl

Henson Dave K. Tan*
China Jade

Nellie Yeo King*
China Jade

Achievers Club

Master Club

Severiano C. Co
Blue Pearl

Nellie Yeo King*
China Jade

Henson Dave K. Tan*
China Jade

Star Club

Steve S. Sy
China Jade

Katherine L. Yap*
Blue Pearl

Adora L. Tudias
Garnet

Jeff U. Damayo
Blue Pearl

Debbie O. Borromeo
Blue Pearl

Edwin C. Gocuan*
Blue Pearl

Irene G. Yu
Blue Pearl

Antonette "Babie" Mahinay
Blue Pearl

Ma. Theresa B. Gallego, CPA
Blue Pearl

Juanita C. Ong
Blue Pearl

Cristina L. Go*
China Jade

Maria Cherrie Tan
Blue Pearl

Marina A. Carreon*
Diamond

Welson "Powell" D. Ong**
White Opal

Pedro O. Lim*
China Jade

Juliet A. Kintanar
Blue Pearl

Paul L. Bosleng
Garnet

Sonia U. Albano
Diamond

Arnel Amor R. Arriola*
Diamond

Manfred R. Marpa
White Opal

Ma. Lourdes P. Yap
Blue Pearl

Cornelio C. Pahang
Blue Pearl

Belen Lourdes E. Aritao
Ruby

Leonides V. Peña
Garnet

President's Circle

Alfredo T. Kho
China Jade

Nora N. Ngan-Oy
Garnet

Darwin E. Andrey*, LUTCF
Tektite

Gilbert K. Chua
Blue Pearl

Rosario C. Ong
Amethyst

Tony R. Francisco
Ruby

Carlito A. Tiu
China Jade

Artemio C. Wapanio
Blue Pearl

Arceli Chua Tan
Tektite

Michael Y. Chiang
China Jade

Conchita C. Tan**
Amethyst

Juan "Johnny" Loo
China Jade

Loreta Chio
China Jade

Aurelio "Rellie" Cifra*
Jasper

Ma. Christina M. Suarez
Blue Pearl

Elvira Del Castillo
Ruby

Melchor Ong Uy*
China Jade

Lourdes L. Garcia
China Jade

Senior Achiever

Jimmy Franklin C. Tan
Tiger's Eye

Gloria Prado
China Jade

Lolita Tan Eng Sy
Blue Pearl

Koa Hue Hun**
China Jade

Mary Vic T. Aya-ay
Blue Pearl

Rebecca S. Camarista
White Opal

Henry C. Gocuan**
Blue Pearl

Raul C. Roldan*
Gold

Wila A. Bahod
Garnet

Jacqueline Grace T. Lao*
Amethyst

Maria Fe L. Asprer*
Blue Pearl

Estrella P. Gamao
Tektite

Ma. Emehilda F. Binamira
Blue Pearl

Betty T. Go
White Opal

Jeanette L. Chu
Amethyst

Melanie C. Co
China Jade

Sonia L. Tancinco
Blue Pearl

Mark Allan E. Ching
Diamond

Lolita "Lolly" G. Uy
China Jade

Johnny B. Pacsi
Garnet

Monette G. Mendez
Blue Pearl

Mark L. Licyayo*
Tektite

Noel A. Siacunco
Garnet

Qualifying Member

Lolia A. Anat
Tektite

Corazon O. Jalimao
Tektite

Lyneth P. Corpin
Blue Pearl

Mylene C. Ortega
Diamond

Ma. Teresita N. Atal
Diamond

Imelda "Ime" Y. Lu
Ruby

Violy S. Ante*
Ruby

Ariel E. Rosales*
Garnet

Vivian Dy Lavadia
Amethyst

Cheryl M. Tanchico
Diamond

Noel Crisostomo
Tektite

Marilou Huang Peir Pyng
China Jade

Katrina C. Torrejon
Jet Stars

R. Joel P. Ortega, Jr.
Diamond

Jocelyn Grace T. Lao
Amethyst

Emilie K. H. Go*
China Jade

Francis T. Albaña
Blue Pearl

Ofelia Z. Tolentino
Diamond

Romano Pelagio Perez
Diamond

Elisa E. Bulseco*
Ruby

Lynn Marie P. Viado
Blue Pearl

Aurora R. Gesmundo
Diamond

Marieta Puyat - Wong
Diamond

Nemesia L. Rellen
Blue Pearl

Nemesio "Boy" C. Elma, Jr.*
Gold

Edgin Monzon
China Jade

Circle of Prudence

Mary Gay O. Mendoza

Model employee who personifies the values which Prudence stands for: Truth, Wisdom and Skill

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Tower Club is set on becoming a pinnacle of elegance

BY DONNIE C. RÁMIREZ

JOEY Cuisia, the former Central Bank governor and now president and CEO of the giant insurance group Philamlife, was hesitant to call it "exclusive," even if that elusive, often loosely used glam factor is written all over his newest "baby," the Tower Club. The super-lux after-hours magnates' lair will soon emerge at the topmost 33rd and 34th floors of the imposing Philamlife Tower in Makati.

From its vision of excellence to its distinguished roster of founding governors and, finally, to its ultimate realization as the finest and most prestigious private business club in the country, the Tower Club is indeed aiming for no less than the pinnacle of elegance and exclusivity. The project is the brainchild of Cuisia, a highly respected figure in the Asian finance and banking circle.

TOWER CLUB'S MEN. (Seated) Oscar Lopez, Jose Cuisia, Ramon del Rosario, Washington Sycip, Roberto Romulo, Peter Wallace; (standing) Arthur Lopez, Danny Ignacio, Dieter Klostermann, Ricardo Romulo, Guillermo Luchangco, Rafael Hechanova, George Yang, Oscar Reyes. MIKE ALQUINTO

Shared vision

Cuisia's vision for the Tower Club is shared and supported by the venerable Washington Sycip, founder of the auditing giant Sycip, Gorres and Velayo. These two business heavyweights are joined in the board of governors by other esteemed captains of Philippine commerce and industry like PLDT's Manny Pangilinan, Benpres Holdings' Oscar Lopez, Hyland Realty's Paing Hechanova, Ambassador Ramon del Rosario Sr. and his son, former finance secretary and now managing partner of SGV Ramon "Boy Blue" del Rosario Jr., Pilipinas Shell's Oscar Reyes, Ayala scions Jaime Augusto and Fernando Zobel, fishing magnate Francisco Tiu-Laurel, former energy czar Geronimo Velasco Jr., McDonald's franchise owner George T. Yang and Ricardo Romulo and Roberto Romulo. Also sitting in the board are two outstanding women—Corazon de la Paz, senior partner of Joaquin Cunanan & Co., and Doris Magsaysay Ho, CEO of Magsaysay Maritime Corp.

Danny Ignacio, part of the team that built Philamlife Tower, is collaborating with the prestigious CCA Holdings Ltd., represented by its chair Dieter Klostermann, managing director Helmut Knipp and seasoned Filipino hotelier Arthur Lopez, who recently resigned as GM of the Westin Philippine Plaza to assume the position of president and CEO of CCA Philippines. Architect William Coscolluela designed the building plans, while Robert Bilkey of Bilkey, Llinas Design Associates based in Florida, USA, is commissioned to do the interiors.

FORMAL dining

CCA is an international management firm that operates some of the most prestigious private clubs and leisure facilities in Asia and Europe.

"Manila doesn't have a proper club for the business community where you can take the visiting chairman of the bank for lunch. You take him to a hotel or restaurant," observed Klostermann. He added that Manila is the only place in the world where he sees hotel lobbies become second offices, what with mobile phones ringing and bodyguards watching over their employers.

Because businessmen end up mixing with tourists and other hotel guests, a private venue is needed.

At a press lunch presided by Johnny Litton, Cuisia promised that when completed and opened in June this year, the Tower Club will be the "ultimate milieu" that will exude a cachet of distinction amid "the tasteful décor and ambiance of a privileged and very exclusive surrounding enjoyed by only a very few."

Dining outlets

There will be two main dining outlets—a Chinese restaurant seating 144 guests, which will offer a menu of exotic and authentic Cantonese, Szechuan and other Asian cuisine, and a Western restaurant seating 132, which will boast of exquisite, multiflavored continental specialties.

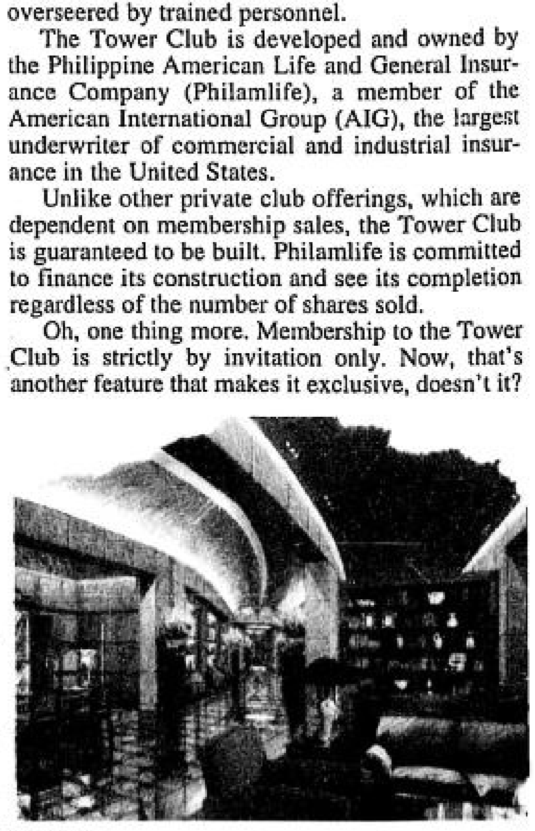
The Bar Lounge (capacity: 53 persons) will have an excellent cellar with a complement of the cognac, whiskey, brandy and wines, while the Cigar Room will provide members a venue to enjoy their Cuban cigars. In addition, there will be six private function rooms and a boardroom, which will be the ultimate in power meetings. The Library, on the other hand, will carry popular titles. It is a haven for members who opt for a more sedate and quiet surrounding where they can read a book while enjoying their cappuccino. The adjacent Business Center will be equipped with uplinked computers, laser printers and fax and copier machines.

Finally, following the dictum *mens sana, in corpore sana*, the Tower Club has allocated a sizeable area for the fitness center, with separate sections for men and women. The center will house the latest in exercise equipment. There will be steam and massage rooms and a juice bar overseered by trained personnel.

The Tower Club is developed and owned by the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philamlife), a member of the American International Group (AIG), the largest underwriter of commercial and industrial insurance in the United States.

Unlike other private club offerings, which are dependent on membership sales, the Tower Club is guaranteed to be built. Philamlife is committed to finance its construction and see its completion regardless of the number of shares sold.

Oh, one thing more. Membership to the Tower Club is strictly by invitation only. Now, that's another feature that makes it exclusive, doesn't it?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